



The Juniper Journal

Restoration Work along Powerline Road

On Saturday May 18, 2018 nine very hardy volunteers worked together for 4 hours to help improve the safety and visual experience of visitors to Arrastre Waterfall.

A sharp horseshoe turn along Powerline Rd. (JF3330) has not only become an eyesore, but also a safety issue. The public land managers (Bureau of Land Management) placed a wire fence at the ridge of the site to help deter continued vehicle use of the short cut. However, vehicle scars remained, the fence was recently cut, and vehicle tracks were visible

Friends of Juniper Flats put together a project to help heal the scars and deter future vehicle use of the short cut. This is not the first time volunteers have worked on this incursion.

We used a combination of Horizontal and Vertical Mulching to complete the project. The Horizontal mulching technique involves placing logs, dead sticks (and other plant materials), as well as stones on the ground to help prevent inadvertent vehicle use. This is a meth-

od often used when the site has not yet been "cleared" by an archaeologist. It is sometimes all that is needed to prevent further damage by vehicle use off the designated route.

Often "horizontal" is used in conjunction with Vertical Mulching, a technique that may only be used if the site has been visited and "cleared" by the BLM archaeologist. It involves digging holes which may damage ancient artifacts hidden below the surface. This site is one that had been previously "cleared" by the archaeologist prior to past restoration efforts.

The site was evaluated for compaction and potential for erosion. Where compaction had made the surface hard, volunteers first broke up the top soil as best they could. The top of the shortcut included some very hard, compacted soil. Volunteers used pics and shovels to

dig as many holes as possible and pitted the hard ground with small indents. Then they planted "dead stick bushes" in the holes. Fist-sized stones were added to help stabilize the dead stick bushes. These "sticks" were collected from nearby juniper bushes which were burned in the 1999 Willow Fire. Care was taken to collect no more than 30% of any one burned bush and to avoid disturbing burned bushes closest to the road. Other volunteers were busy raking and shoveling sand which had eroded down slope onto the road. They re-created a small "berm" along the edge of the road

and later added rocks to make the outline of the road more pronounced.

Still other volunteers worked on the slope which was generally softer sand. After raking out vehicle tracks, stick bushes were added to

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Photo "before" the Restoration



Dave giving Juniper Flats presentation at CTTC

Presentation to CTTC

Earlier this year, Friends of Juniper Flats created a slide show presentation to be given to local organizations about the beautiful Juniper Flats area and the work we do there. Last February, the slide show was presented at the High Desert Conservation Coalition meeting, followed in March with a presentation to a class at Victor Valley College. Last month, the presentation was given at the monthly meeting of the California Turtle & Tortoise Club. All presentations were well-received and helped elevate awareness of Juniper Flats.

Our presentations are intended to develop more community interest in, and support for Juniper Flats, grow our membership and invite more volunteers to help with our future projects. If you are a member of other organizations that might be interested in our presentation at their meetings, please advise the organization's contact information via email to fojf2@yahoo.com.

Friends of Juniper Flats
P.O. Box 83
Apple Valley, CA 92307
Email: fojf2@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!

- (1) www.friendsofjuniperflats.org
- (2) friendsofjuniperflat.wordpress.com
- (3) Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Juniper-Flats-1988946144701669/>

Article Contributions Requested

Do you have a story, article or photos you would like to contribute to The Juniper Journal? We are always interested in contributions from our membership that relate to Juniper Flats. For our consideration, please send them via email attachment to fojf2@yahoo.com.



What is Juniper Flats?

Juniper Flats, in the foothills and mountainous areas south of Apple Valley, CA, covers 101,272 acres of mixed public and private lands. It offers an attractive transition landscape of mountains, boulder fields, and canyons supporting a unique mixture of plants from both desert and mountain environments. Its streams and riparian areas support an abundant variety of wildlife. Juniper Flats is a year-round recreation destination in which Friends of Juniper Flats encourages low-impact activities such as hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, and nature photography.

Not a member yet?



Juniper Jack asks . . .

We invite you to join the Friends of Juniper Flats to help with our goals of protecting, preserving and restoring Juniper Flats. Dues are only \$5 per year. Just send your check for your membership to the address shown above, along with your name, address, phone number, and email address.

Donations in any amount are also welcome.

Xenoliths, What Are They?

by Qunitin Lake

An interesting geologic story can be seen in the Juniper Flats area. The bedrock of central and eastern Juniper Flats is granite that weathers into large granite boulder outcrops which are quite scenic. If you look more closely at that granite you can find Xenoliths (Zeno-liths), inclusions of a foreign rock which became mixed in the granite when it was a magma being intruded as a Pluton. A Pluton is a large body of intrusive igneous rock.



The Xenoliths were ripped from the surrounding rock as the magma flowed past but they did not melt into the magma. Today they can be found as fist size to refrigerator size inclusions in the granite rocks of Juniper Flats.



In most cases the Xenoliths are more resistant to weathering so they protrude from the granite as knobs and they are darker in color than the granite they are found in. See if you can find some when you are in Juniper Flats.

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the slope and logs distributed in between. Lastly, a few volunteers roamed the steep hillsides collecting no more than 10% of branches from live bushes. These branches were added to some of the "stick bushes" and also made into smaller "bushes". The cuttings are not expected to take root, but are used to help trap wind born seeds which may germinate after the rains. Erosion control methods were included to help slow the flow of any rain water that does not immediately soak into the ground.

Continued success of the project will depend mainly on the respect of vehicle riders. Friends of Juniper Flats volunteer land stewards will monitor the site and report/repair any damage. We will be planning other small restoration projects. If you would like to become part of our team of volunteers, please send us an email expressing your interest.



Photo "after" the Restoration