

Cañon City Skyline Hogbacks Preservation Campaign

The following speech was presented to the Cañon City Council members at the July 2, 2007 council meeting.

It was both written and delivered by Cañon City resident, Monica McGowan.

Council members and Honorable Mayor Jackson:

This evening I am going to be one of 3 speakers that will be addressing a significant concern of residents that live along the hogback area.

You have each been given a copy of a petition that has been circulated to residents who are directly affected by the growing and uncontrolled use of off-road vehicles near their homes. In the last 6 months there has been an explosion of use in the hogbacks.

There over 100 signatures. I am one of the advocates and voice for the people who have signed this petition. Some of the residents are here tonight and I'd like to thank them for being here tonight. Every name on this petition represents a story and concern. A minimum of 10-20 minutes was spent just listening with an open ear to these residents. The stories range from noise and frazzled nerves, vibrations that actually rattle windows of homes, the kicking up of dust and unsafe driving, geologic and historical concerns for the area, stormwater and erosion problems which our city has to contend with if we have a rainstorm with excessive rain, an imbalanced ecosystem that effects the plants and wildlife of the area.

If you will please turn to the page directly behind the petitioners signatures:

Photos 1-8 represent the flora of the hogback area. I personally took these pictures approximately 2 weeks ago. These photos represent just some of the vegetation that exists and can hopefully be restored. I was alone while taking these photos until I was joined by 2 motorcycle riders. They had entered the hogbacks across private property owned by the Mueller family. They also crossed the vandalized cut fence that the Muellers and our city cooperatively placed there.



Photo 1

Photo 2



Photo 3

Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8

Please note *picture 9*. This is a photo of the cut fence which has once again been repaired.



Photo 9

Photo 10 is a sign that restricts motor vehicles.



Photo 10

Photos 11 and 12 are the motorcyclists who were annoyed that I was there. I felt intimidated and hoped they wouldn't take my camera as I took their pictures. I didn't include pictures of trash but it is also a problem. Cans, paper bags from Sonic, mattresses, plastic bottles, clothing, name it and it could probably be found.



Photo 11



Photo 12

Photos 13 and 14 are new trails that are being found daily; especially after a weekend of use.



Photo 13

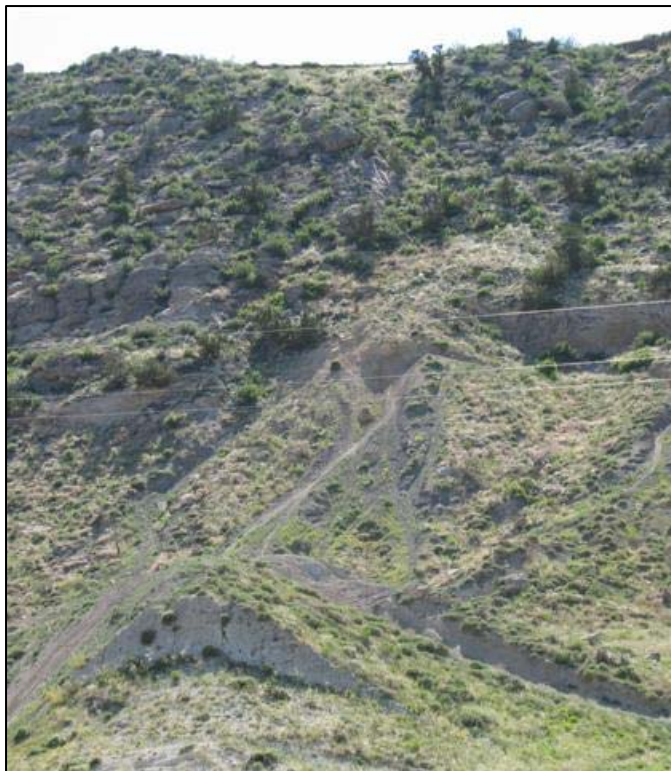


Photo 14

15 and 16 were taken in an area side by side to show the natural vegetation and damage. Photo 16 shows what has happened due to overuse.



Photo 15



Photo 16

Photo 17 is the part of the trail that is still intact and how beautiful it could look with proper usage.



Photo 17

The next 2 photos were taken off the Internet that encourages damaging use. The young man on the motorcycle is riding off trail attempting to climb the ridge. This again shows improper usage.....as well as a complete hazard.



The photo below is of the hogback area showing the damage of new trails and invasive side trails that lead up to look right over the hogback into the privacy of homes and backyards of residents. The final photo page is a frozen video clip on you tube which was posted on the internet of a young man driving his car dangerously up an area not suitable for any car. I encourage you to go to the [youtube](https://www.youtube.com) website and type in Cañon City Hogbacks as a search and watch this clip for yourselves. It is a tragedy waiting to happen.



Next, I would like to introduce another resident who is a retired State Patrolman who would like to speak about other specific concerns. Following him will be a resident who also lives in the area and is a member of a local hiking club who would like to address erosion and the ecosystem.