

OCTOBER 31, 2016
REPORT TO NAMRC

MOJAVE ROAD UPDATE

The Mojave Road is a 135 mile-long 4x4 recreation route in the Mojave Desert of California utilizing National Park, BLM, as well as minimal private lands.

The NPS has closed a 15-mile section of the Mojave Road due to runoff and storm damage. Barricades have been erected to advise “Mojave Roaders” and others. The NPS provides a bypass route on their website. The bypass eliminates mile 27 to mile 42 in the *Mojave Road Guide*.

The “Friends of the Mojave Road” and Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association, publishers of Dennis G. Casebier’s *Mojave Road Guide*, have detailed a shorter, more attractive, and more historical alternate to the NPS re-route. The MDHCA has that route prominently displayed on its website, available for download, and includes detailed turn by turn notes, mileage, as well as GPS information.

The NPS, Mojave National Preserve, has not established a time line for the repair and reopening of this detour. There have been reports of users bypassing the barricades and using the former route of the Mojave Road. The park service is aware of that and prohibits the practice.

Further west on the Mojave Road, and out of park service jurisdiction, there has been a continual issue with marking the preferred route through a several mile section. The difficulty lies with two forces of nature – wind and rain! Complicating the route finding is that much of this area is within the Razor Road Off-Highway Vehicle Area; thus lots of roads crisscross much of the terrain. This section is from Mile 106.8 to mile 115.9 in the *Mojave Road Guide*.

Dealing with soft blow sand in the past, our emphasis has been to monitor the conditions and rebuild the rock cairns as they got covered over with blowing sand. This required trips throughout the year. A new plan of attack began early in 2016 with a slightly revised cairn design. Now, we are putting a section of railroad tie in the center of the rock cairn, and the blowing sand, while still building up on the rocks, does not seem to engulf the tie, thus still providing guidance for travelers. We’ve installed around twenty such ties – so far so good! Cairns are used over the entire 135-mile distance to identify the route.



Through the remaining miles of this section – the actual flood plain of the Mojave River, we have also added taller ties, and additional rock cairns so that after rains and minor flooding a route may still be located. It is purely through volunteer efforts that maintenance continues on this historic route/recreation 4x4 trail.

Respectfully submitted,
John N. Marnell, Friends of the Mojave Road
Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association, Goffs, California