

Alabama Hills Newsletter

July 2022



Fieldwork

- 3-4 days a week, staff are conducting dispersed camping surveys, collecting trash, sweeping out vehicle tracks, and monitoring the Alabama Hills.
- Staff have been working hard to implement the management plan by focusing on creating work plans and tackling work that can be done without heavy machinery. Over the last few weeks, many signs have been installed to inform visitors which sites are permitted to camp in and those that are not. Rock barriers, the removal of ash and fire rings, vertical mulch, a sea of rocks, and carsonites are being used to deter prospective campers in areas closed to camping. The use of heavy machinery is limited but BLM staff are working hard to operate and use it to move large rocks.



Collecting Litter



Newly installed *Day Use Only* sign

Behind the Scenes

- Interpretive signs and brochures are being created and worked on

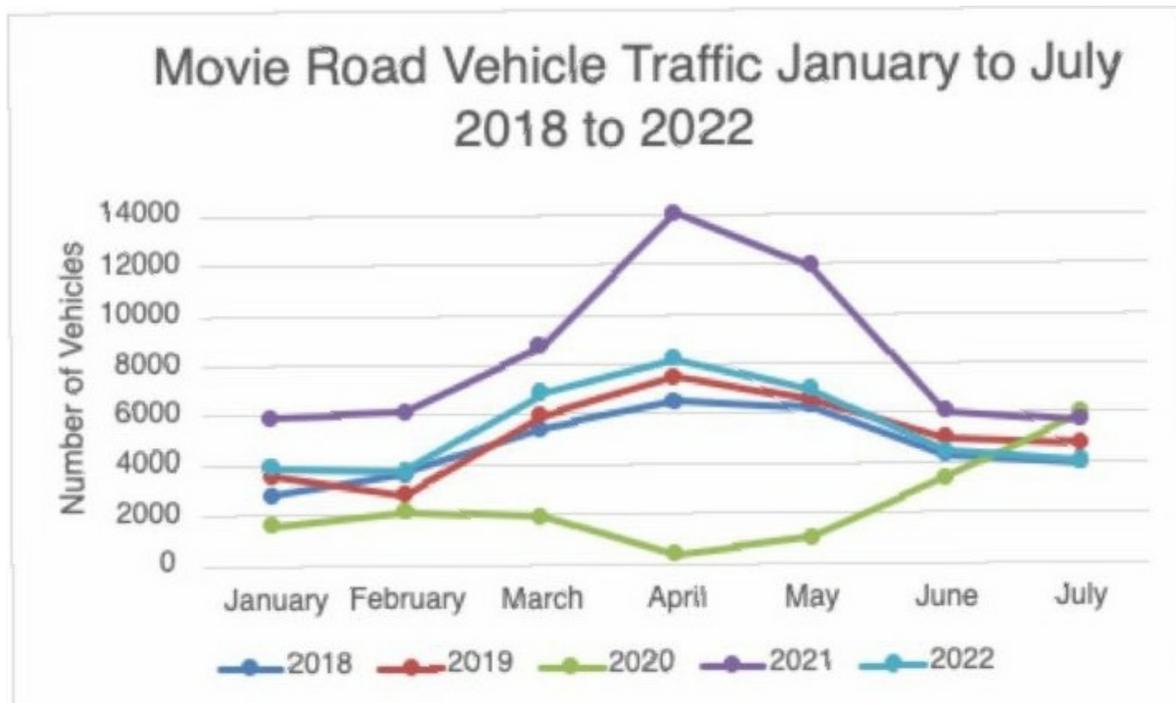
collaboratively between the BLM staff, ESIA, AHSG, and other interested parties.

- Staff is working on organizing stewardship projects with various organizations to help implement the management plan.
- Beautiful metal bulletin boards have been made and will be installed in August.
- An Alabama Hills Kid Activity Page has been created to better connect children to the Alabama Hills. The page has 3 activities that emphasize Leave No Trace practices and cover desert plant and animal adaptations. Once complete, participants will have the opportunity to earn a "Don't Crush the Brush" sticker.

July Visitation

Vehicle and foot traffic was captured using an automatic, stationary sensor. Please note that some years have more complete data than others. Where there is incomplete data, the program estimates based on past data.

- Whitney Portal Entrance Station: 1,624
- North Entrance: 1,808
- Arch Trail Foot Traffic: 1,408



Camping Survey

BLM staff take dispersed camping surveys to better understand camping trends, monitor use, and see if "Day Use Only" and "No Camping" signs are working. Between January-July 2022, the BLM has collected over 7,717 dispersed camping surveys in the Alabama Hills and noted 458 trailers, 645 tents, and 179 RVs.

**January-July 2022
Camping Survey Totals**

	Trailer 458
	Tent 645
	RV 179

Upcoming Events

- The BLM *Artist in Residency* is a program in which artists look closely at natural and cultural resources, notice things that others may have missed, challenge ideas, and create new opportunities to look at the world. After a week in the Alabama Hills, [Heather Heckel](#) will be showcasing her art and hosting a watercolor postcard-making activity. This fun afternoon will be *Saturday, August 2th 2022, from 2:30 pm-4:30 pm at the Forum Theatre* in Lone Pine. This event is free and open to the public. All ages are welcome!
- Milestar and Treadlightly will be collaborating with the BLM on a stewardship project in late September. Last year, this enthusiastic group helped dismantled many fire rings and naturalize closed campsites. We are excited to have them back.
- Lone Pine Film Festival October 6-9th 2022.
- Fall time *Happening in the Hills*- date and time TBA!
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Staffing

- The BLM Recreation Department has 4 permanent and 3 seasonal team members that patrol the Alabama Hills and other BLM-managed lands. Welcome to the team, Brett!
- ESIA has Savanna as an Interpretive Specialist in the Alabama Hills 3-4 days a week.

Outreach

- ESIA continues to post informational, educational, and responsible recreation messaging on its social media pages. More material is forthcoming about continued changes, Leave No Trace messaging, and educational material. Check out their [Instagram](#) and [Facebook page](#).
- Follow the [Bureau of Land Management- California Facebook page](#) for information about California Public Lands, including the Alabama Hills!
- [Alabama Hills Stewardship Group](#) also has a Facebook page to follow.

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