

Dixie Canyon / Wildcat Canyon - LTE *Bisbee News* (March 18, 1999)

Some places we'd rather just have the kind of snakes that already live here, the kind that don't have legs. And not so many houses that we can see them everywhere we look. And no locked gates so people can walk freely as we always have on footpaths and deer trails along the watercourses. And the water kept clean so plants and animals continue to grow as they always have since before the memory of anyone now living.

They've bladed public roads without a permit. Bulldozed miles of canyon walls on private land despite their righteous promise not to, at least until the Corps of Engineers, Game and Fish, and the state Department of Agriculture had all signed off on the trashing of native plants for miles and miles, and the state DEQ had had ok'd the trashing of streambeds. If those aren't illegal, they should be. And probably are. These dammed up headwaters and greed-driven roads are abominations that shouldn't go unpunished. There is no need to develop these lands any further. They've already been developed to their highest use without much help from any of us and our wildest dreams. The cat trails and hard feelings already punched in, as well as everything the promoters would like to have follow, can only lessen the value these open grass and woodlands have had until very recently, and could have again, if the government doesn't make it easy for them and they pull out, write it off as a lost cause, and clean up the mess they've already made, on their way out.