

Fred Young

Double Diamond Award



As a member of the Carson Valley Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Nevada, Fred Young is an invaluable member to our organization. For more than 20 years, access to the Toiyabe National Forest from the NE corner of Jack's Valley in Northern Nevada has been open to the public. But, like many backcountry areas these days, in 2008, access to this Forest was closed off to the public by the Toiyabe Ranger District. Confused by this, Fred inquired of a local ranger as to why this had happened. The response he received was that, due to deer migration in the area, the Forestry Department wanted to prohibit motorized vehicles from entering the area. Unfortunately, this also kept out mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers—authorized users. There had previously been a gate (which Fred had installed several years earlier), but the Forestry Department had placed a pole in the middle of that gate, which not only prevented any motorized vehicles from entering the area, but also prevented equestrians and mountain bikes from entering as well. Not deterred, however, Fred, met with local rangers and sought to work together to come up with a solution to this problem.

Given the go-ahead by the USFS, Fred designed a gate that would allow equestrian users, mountain bikers and hikers all access, but which would still prevent motorized vehicle access. (See attached picture). Then, at his own expense, Fred not only built, but installed his new gate, and with the approval of local rangers. The Toiyabe Ranger District liked Fred's gate design so much that they decided to install three more of them. One of the gates has already been installed, with two more planned. Fred's new gate design has been so successful that the Toiyabe Ranger District has forwarded it to the U.S. Forestry Service for use in other areas—a benefit to all backcountry users. If you have an area in need of one of Fred's gates, please visit our website, <http://www.bchn.us/>, to get a copy of the specifications.

Fred has showed us that working with government agencies, rather than being confrontational, produces results that permit the use of our national resources. Thank you Fred for a job well done.