

Climbing/Hiking Enthusiasts:

(revised 3/11/13)

I am writing to you to let you know that the AZ Game and Fish Department recently negotiated a 2 year access agreement **(for the months of March and April only 2013-14)** with the King's Anvil Ranch (Ranch) in Three Points/Robles Junction, that will allow registered climbers/hikers (up to a certain number at a time) to access the King's private property in Mendoza Canyon, between March 1st and April 30th in 2013 and 2014, for Day-Use Only. In order to legally access AZ State Trust land along the way to their private lands, you will need a Recreation Permit issued by the AZ State Land Department, see their website for details, if you do not already have a valid permit.

http://www.azland.gov/programs/natural/recreation_permit.htm

In order to get the combination to enter the ranch, Climbers/Hikers will need to contact me, Matt Walton Public Access Coordinator, **not the Ranch** (by email or cell ph#) at the AZ Game and Fish Department in Tucson at: mwalton@azgfd.gov or 520-400-4022. Please allow several days for me to respond to your request for this information. Don't show up at the Ranch and expect the King's to provide you with the combination.

Access will be through the King's Anvil Ranch Headquarters off Highway 286 at approximately Milepost 37 1/2. A gate will be locked with a combination lock just west of the Sign-In-Box.

The combination will change every 2 weeks on a Monday, for 2013 the combo changes will be on 3/18, 4/1, and 4/15. I will give out the combination provided participants agree to follow all procedures outlined as follows:

1). All persons entering must sign into the "Sign-In-Box" at the Ranch, enter vehicle and passenger information into the notebook in the box, and take a brightly colored AZGFD "Ranch Pass" from the Sign-In-Box and display this pass on their vehicle's rearview mirror, or on dashboard while on the ranch, along with your ASLD STL Recreational Permit. AZGFD Ranch Passes must be returned and participants must sign out when leaving the ranch (e.g. enter time leaving).

2). The Ranch will allow permitted climbers/hikers seeking access to the rock cliffs in Mendoza Canyon only for **DAY USE ONLY**. **No other exploration of the STL or private property is permitted, this is a condition of entry through the Ranch's Private Property, don't come out to target shoot, or hunt.** There will be maps in the box that shows a "designated

access route” to Mendoza Canyon, signs will be posted along the route to assist recreators locate Mendoza Canyon. Parking will not be permitted at the base of the cliffs, since there is a water catchment there that wildlife uses. A parking area along the route will be designated and will require a ¼ mile walk into the cliff area.

3). In Addition, as a condition of the agreement for entry onto the Ranch, motorcycles, quads-ATV’s, or side by sides (UMV’s) are prohibited across the private property of the Ranch; therefore, entry beyond the Ranch Sign-In-Box with a vehicle of the types listed above will constitute “Criminal Trespass” and result in revocation of Access Privileges, and prosecution under A.R.S. Title 13.

4). No target shooting on Private or State Trust land. Take all trash out when you leave.

5). *** Note: Access for this time period is granted by permission of the Ranch (landowner), and can be revoked without prior notice. Further, recreational participants/entrants of this agreement agree that they will not take any action under eminent domain against the King Anvil Ranch in the future, based on the access allowed under this 2 year limited access agreement (Agreement on file with the AZGFD, Public Access Coordinator, 555 N. Greasewood Road, Tucson Az 85745).

6). ***Use Caution*** there are active bee hives in Mendoza Canyon, in a clearing several hundred yards from the Dam. If you see these hives please stay away, don’t park in this cleared area. Park along the road in another location, the bees are protective of their home.

I will provide a combination to the lock and a map with directions to those that contact me directly, do not pass this information out to others. They need to contact me, unless they are part of your group, and I have their name. We do not want people to get locked in behind the gate when the combination changes, or to be left without the correct combination to get in or out. We also need to know that people have left for the night and have signed out and are not stranded between Mendoza Canyon and the Headquarters. The Access is for Day-Use only.

The King’s expect to be treated politely, so a friendly smile and wave would go a long way to repairing some trust that was lost the last time this area was open, then closed to climbing/hiking. The Ranch has agreed to this on a trial basis, with the AZ Game and Fish Dept administering the access compliance. The Ranch will assess how the “Access Experiment”

went for this period, based on participants behavior-compliance and cleanliness, before negotiating any extension of access privileges for the hiking and climbing community.

The main Big Game Hunting Seasons in AZ close at the end of February in 2013, so the Ranch will not be open to hunters, except the AZ Game and Fish Department will be sponsoring a group of Youth jackrabbit hunters in early March 3/8-3/10/2013 . These folks will be in a camp and hunting rabbits, throughout the Ranch, but will not be permitted into Mendoza Canyon.

Again please pass this information out to those that you know who will be excited about the opportunity, but caution those folks about proper etiquette and they need to get the combination directly from me. Permitted users are asked to fill in your email address on the sign-in-sheet so that the AZGFD can find out if they had an enjoyable time. In this way we can assess what you think of this type of access and if we should pursue it in the future.

Thank you and have a safe time,

Matthew G. Walton
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