



RED CLIFFS

DESERT RESERVE

Outreach & Education

2026 Biannual Report

Night At The Museum: RCCEP Announcement

Date: Wednesday August 26, 2026

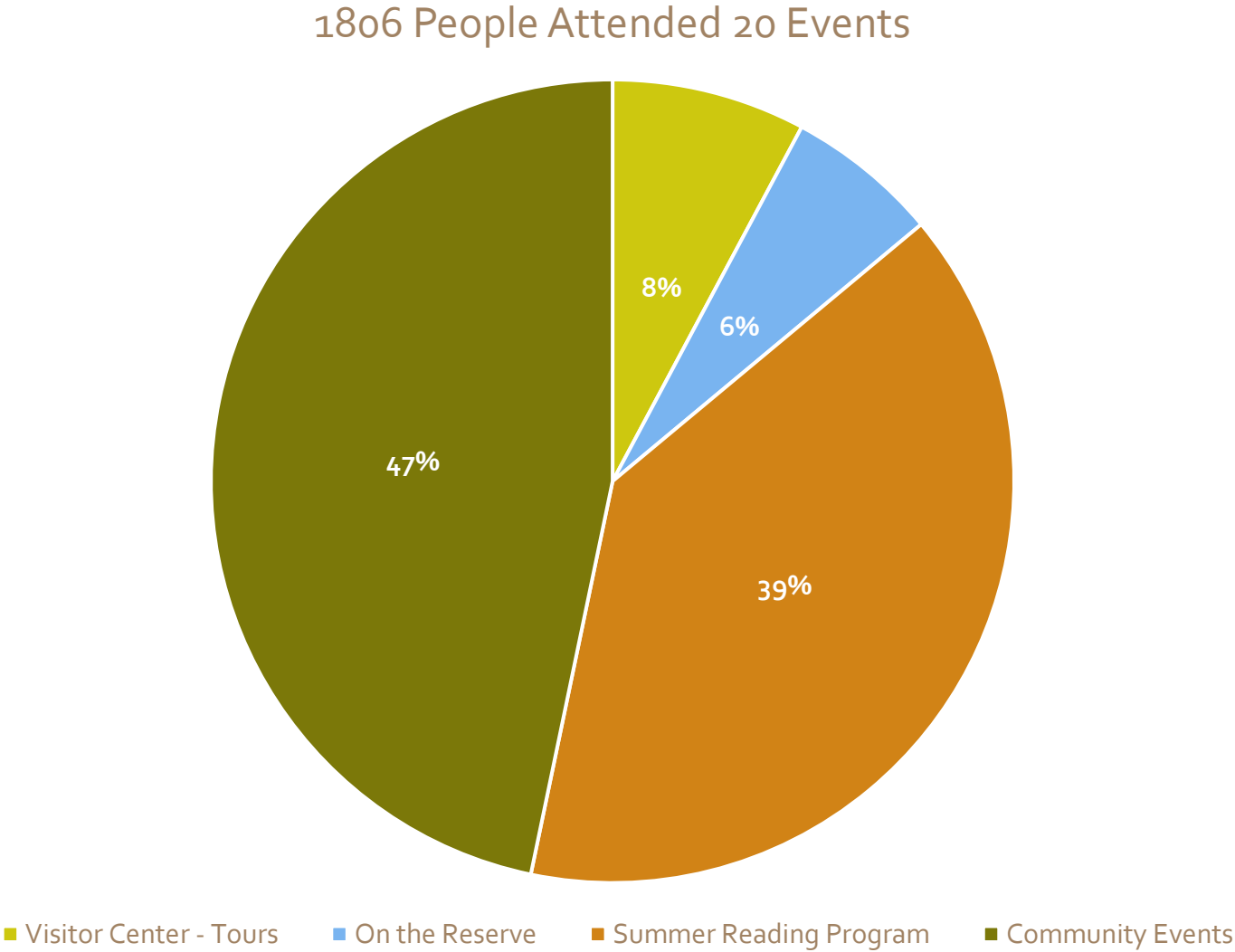
Time: 6-8pm

Location: Utah Tech University -
Dunford Auditorium

- Signing Ceremony*
- Presentations from a student, faculty and HCP staff.
- Catering by the University
- Tour of the Barnum Museum

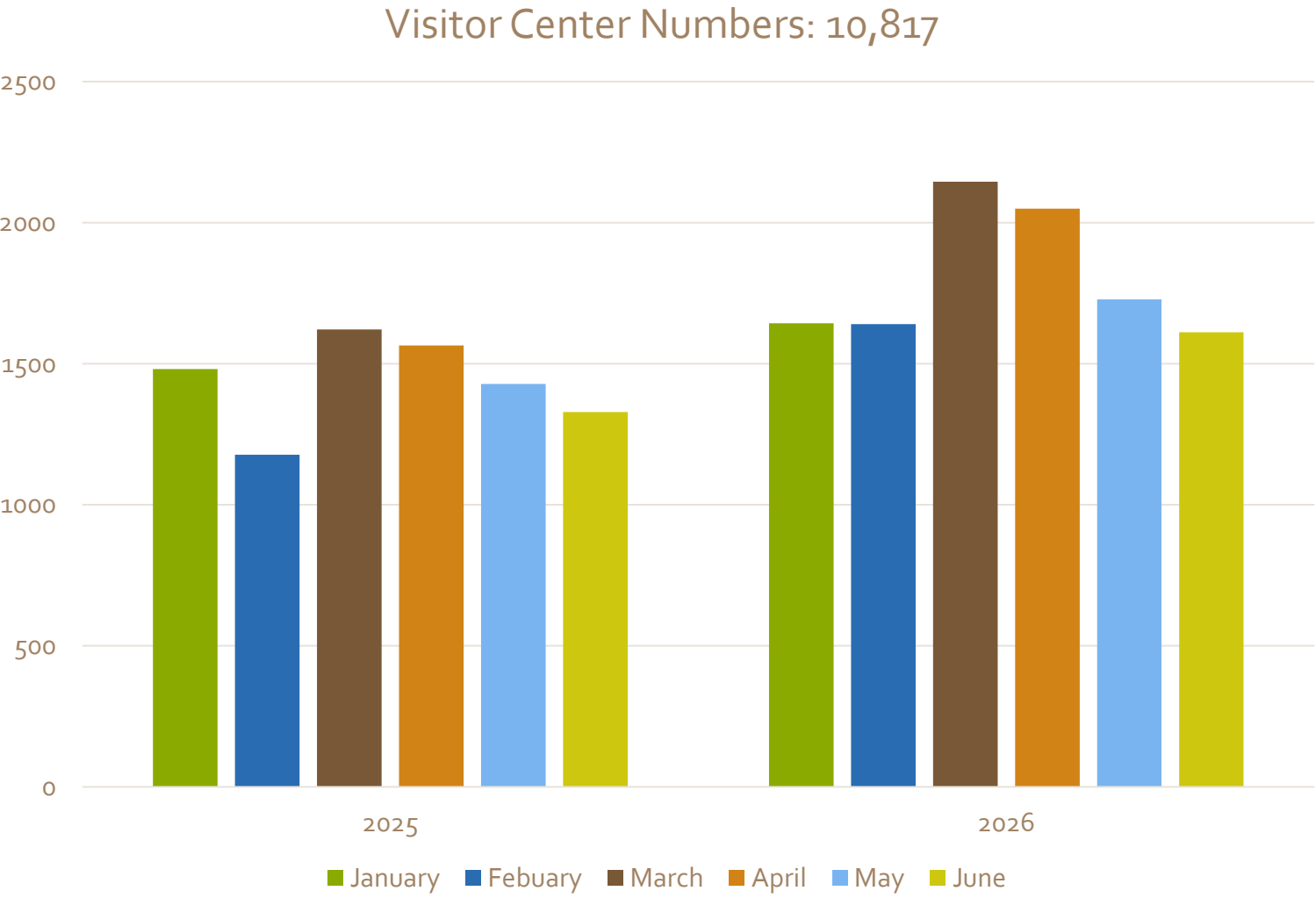


Outreach Numbers



- The most well-attended community event was UTXplore STEM Day on April 27, where HCP staff engaged with more than 650 attendees.
- The Summer Reading Program was also highly successful and had the added benefit of approximately \$700 in cost savings to the Washington County Library System*.

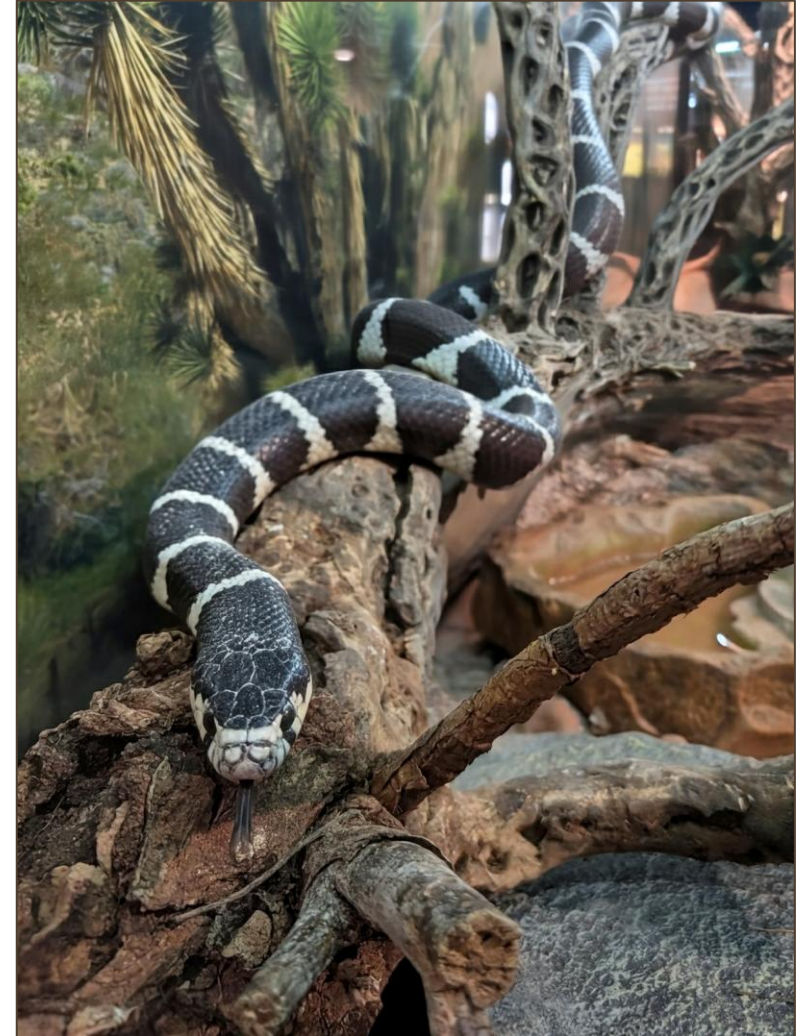
Visitor Center Numbers



- Average Visitor Center attendance increased by **25%** compared with the same reporting period in 2025.

Projects and Programs

New and Continuing Projects & Programs



Fireworks Prohibited Signs – June & July



- HCP Staff Installed 35 Signs across Red Cliffs Desert Reserve
- Social Media campaign of informational postings
- Utah Fire Sense "We Thought We Were Being Careful.." video
- The reports from July 4th Show that LE units issued 0 warning or citations.

Utah's Every Kid Outdoor Initiative



UTAH'S
**EVERY KID
OUTDOORS**
INITIATIVE

EKO Initiative

- Special recognition goes to Randee for introducing me to this valuable program.
- The Reserve has registered as both an **EKO Passport Distribution Center** and a **Community Hub**, allowing staff to distribute program passports and materials while also hosting related outreach events.
- The Museum has also agreed to register for the EKO initiative and partner with the Reserve to co-host future events.
- Participation in the program provides access to a wide range of high-quality, professionally designed educational resources, including ready-to-use social media materials that can be customized with the Reserve's logo.
- All passports, educational materials, outreach resources and program support are provided at no cost to the Reserve.

In progress Outreach Programs

Utah Tech University Student Association Service Branch

- At the beginning of the fall semester, I will begin coordinating with the UTSA Service Branch to identify potential student service projects.

RCCEP Fellowship

- The initial program framework has been drafted and is currently under review by Dr. Bryan Stevens to ensure it meets applicable academic and University requirements.

Cover Your Trash*

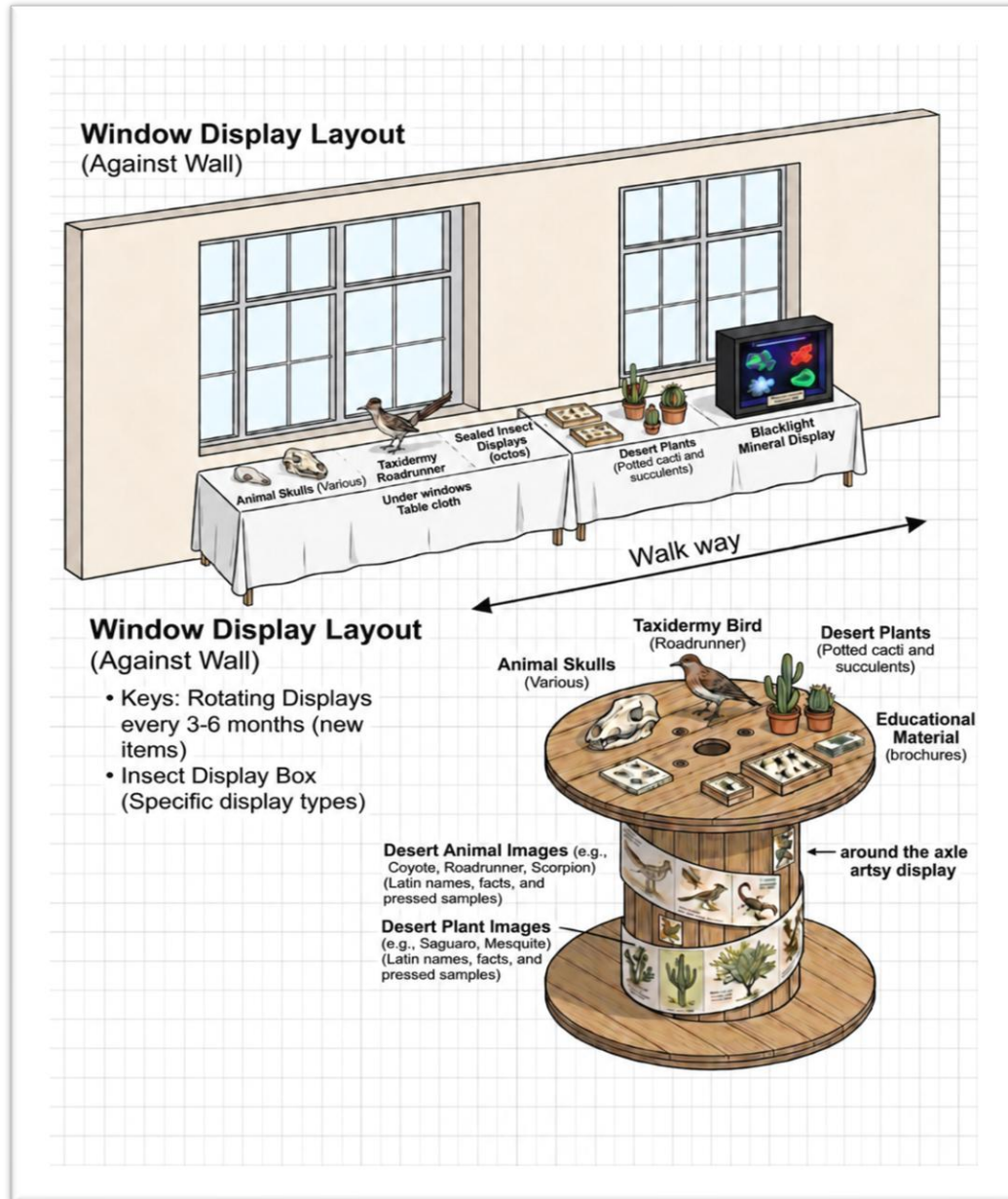
- This campaign is a Washington County adaptation of The Living Desert's "Time to Talk Trash" raven-awareness program.
- The Living Desert has granted permission to adapt the program and has provided its methodology, educational materials and preliminary program results.

Upcoming Events



- **Springdale Library – Completed 12 Attended**
July 2, 2026
- **Hurricane Library – Completed 184 Attended**
July 7, 2026
- **UTU STEM Center Animal Encounter – Completed 15 Attended**
July 21, 2026
- **New Harmony Library Summer Reading Program**
July 23, 2026
- **Night at the Museum**
August 26, 2026
- **Family Night at Tonaquint Nature Center**
September 18, 2026
- **Refall Summit at Black Desert Resort**
September 26, 2026

Other Projects



Visitor Center

- Development of new interactive elements, including tortoise track demonstration.

Barnum Museum Rotating Exhibit

- The exhibit design has been completed. The next steps are to confirm the proposed installation with Greater Zion and determine whether legal review is needed to clarify liability, maintenance and other responsibilities.

Interpretive Kiosks

- Mike and I are developing nine new interpretive kiosks for selected trailheads throughout the Reserve.

California Condor Interpretive Sign

- Identified an appropriate location and display method for the sign. Initial design work is underway

Mojave Desert Outreach & Education Network*



Purpose

- Coordinate, support and share outreach and education resources related to the Mojave Desert.

Primary Focus

- Use the desert tortoise as a focal species while promoting broader understanding and stewardship of the Mojave Desert ecosystem.

Goal

- Support consistent public messaging across the region regarding sensitive species, conservation best practices and responsible recreation, regardless of where visitors encounter outreach programs or public lands.

Current Members

Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

The Tortoise Group

Friends of Golden Butte

Clark County Desert Conservation Program

Andrew H. Barnum Museum of Natural History

MDO&E First Projects

Group Scope and Purpose

- The group is also developing formal scope and purpose statements to clearly define its role, priorities, membership and approach to regional collaboration.

Outreach and Education Material Repository

- Develop a digital repository of non-trademarked outreach and education materials that participating organizations can freely use and adapt across the Mojave region.

Social Media Cross-Posting

- Support the cross-posting of regional events, educational content and important public information through participating organizations' social media channels.

Connected to the Mojave

- A short-form video series highlighting the people, science, stewardship and recreation communities connected to the Mojave Desert.

Community Science

Every Observation Counts

How YOU Can Help Locally!

With 4 Easy Steps!



1. Explore Your Trails

2. Take Photos



3. Drop A Pin

4. Report Your Findings



Getting involved can
make a difference

Current Initiatives

Help Find Raven Nests

Ravens on the Rise

Although ravens are native to the Mojave Desert, expanding populations threaten the survival of the Mojave desert tortoise. Trash, human-made water features, and utility towers allow raven populations to grow and spread beyond their natural size and range. We need your help finding raven and other large nests in the area.

A Threat to Tortoises



Ravens can prey on juvenile tortoises. The photo above represents a portion of 136 juvenile tortoise carcasses collected beneath a single raven nest in California.

Finding Raven Nests



Look for big, scraggly piles of sticks on either natural cliffs, trees, or human made structures. Search for "whitewash" or white streaks of raven excrement on cliffs.



Piles of sticks on the ground can also reveal where former nests have collapsed. These sites should also be recorded.

How to Help

It's as simple as dropping a pin and sending us a photo of the nest by text: (435) 414-1769. Please include photos with the surrounding features to help us locate the nest. If you have GPS coordinates or would like to add comments, please include that in a text.

Info You Can Share

- **Location:** Drop a pin or GPS coordinates.
- **Substrate:** What structure supports the nest? For example, a cliff, tree, transmission towers, or other artificial structure.
- **Nest Condition:** Structural integrity, signs of occupation.
- **Bird Activity:** number of birds, courtship, nest building, incubating, rearing nestlings, fledging of young.
- **Prey Remains:** Take photos and describe.

Nesting Schedule

February	
March	Earliest Courtship Courtship/House Hunting
April	Early Egg Laying Egg Laying Peaks/Early Hatching
May	Most Eggs Hatched / Nestling Care Nestlings Grow Rapidly/First Fledging
June	Fledging Concludes/Nest Abandoned

Your Impact

The data you collect helps us:

- Create a comprehensive map of raven nests in the wild and urban areas.
- Learn more about raven nesting behavior.
- Perform management actions to curb raven damage to tortoises and other wildlife.
- Track raven nesting status to evaluate the effectiveness of our management actions.



- ## Raven Signs
- Installed at 8 locations across the county.
 - Received 25 reports.

Report Tortoise Sightings!

We need your help reporting desert tortoises

Please text your observations and photo to: (435) 414-1769
Don't forget to drop a pin or GPS coordinates.

Tortoise Etiquette

- Do not touch or remove desert tortoises from the wild.
- Please report poaching violations of desert tortoises or other wildlife to the 24-hour poaching hotline at 1-800-662-3337.
- Dogs must be kept on leash at all times for the safety of tortoises and other wildlife.
- Please stay on designated trails.
- Never release pet tortoises into the wild as they may transmit disease to wild tortoises.



Your Impact

The data you collect helps us:

- Map distribution of tortoises in Washington County.
- Protect tortoise habitat.
- Relocate tortoises in developing areas.
- Manage recreation with tortoise conservation.

Contact Information

Red Cliffs Desert Reserve
(435) 301-7430 or email us at:
info@redcliffsdesertreserve.com



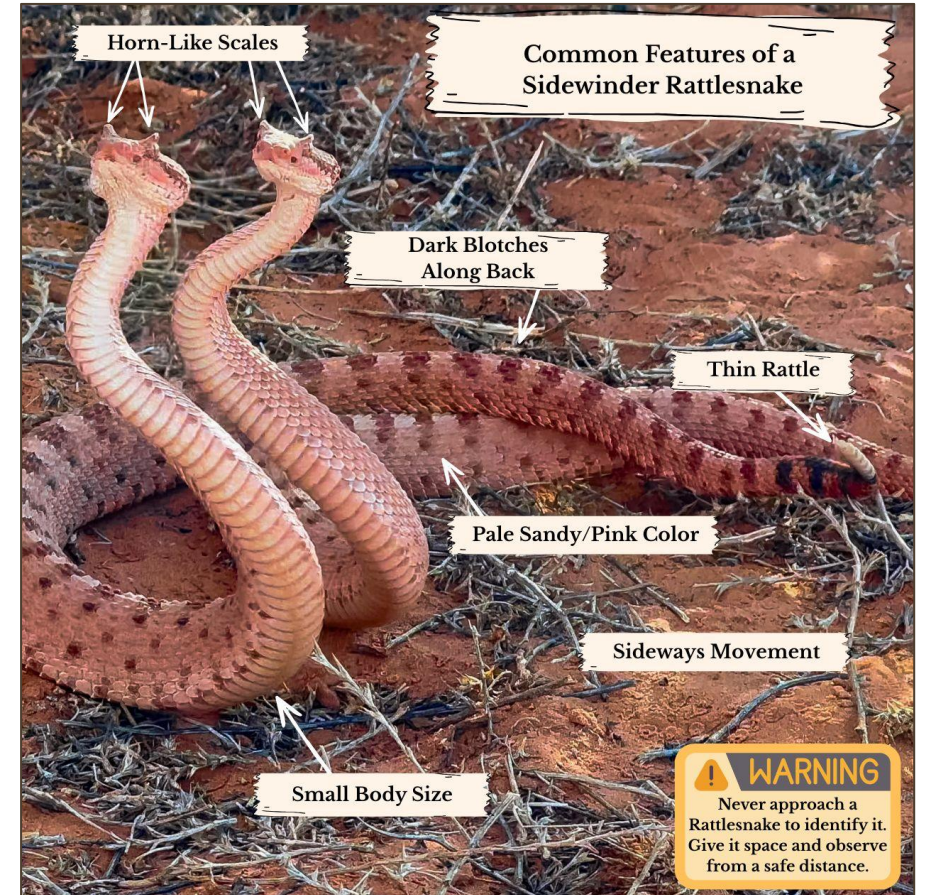
- ## Tortoise Signs
- Installed at 12 locations across the county.
 - Received 32 reports.

Photos From The Community



Social Media & Website

Metrics & Current Campaigns



Metrics*

Post Types

- **General Information**
 - Notices for things like Herbicidal treatments. Fireworks prohibited, etc..
- **April: Community Science Month**
 - Infographics on the What, Why and How of Community Science and our current programs
- **Rattle Radar**
 - Infographics on identifying Rattlesnake Species
 - Education each species and general Rattlesnake awareness
- **Spot the Burrow**
 - Game Style posts encouraging the public to attempt to find a tortoise burrow located within the provided photo
 - Challenge Levels, Easy, Medium, Hard

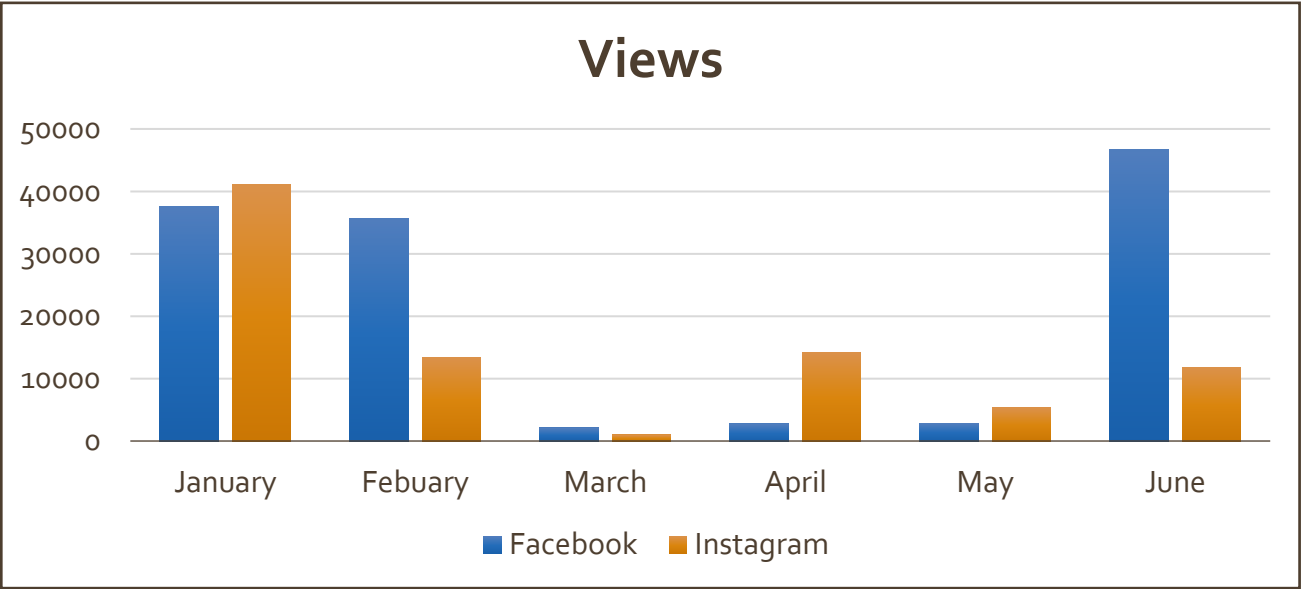


Fig 1. The number of times our content was played or displayed

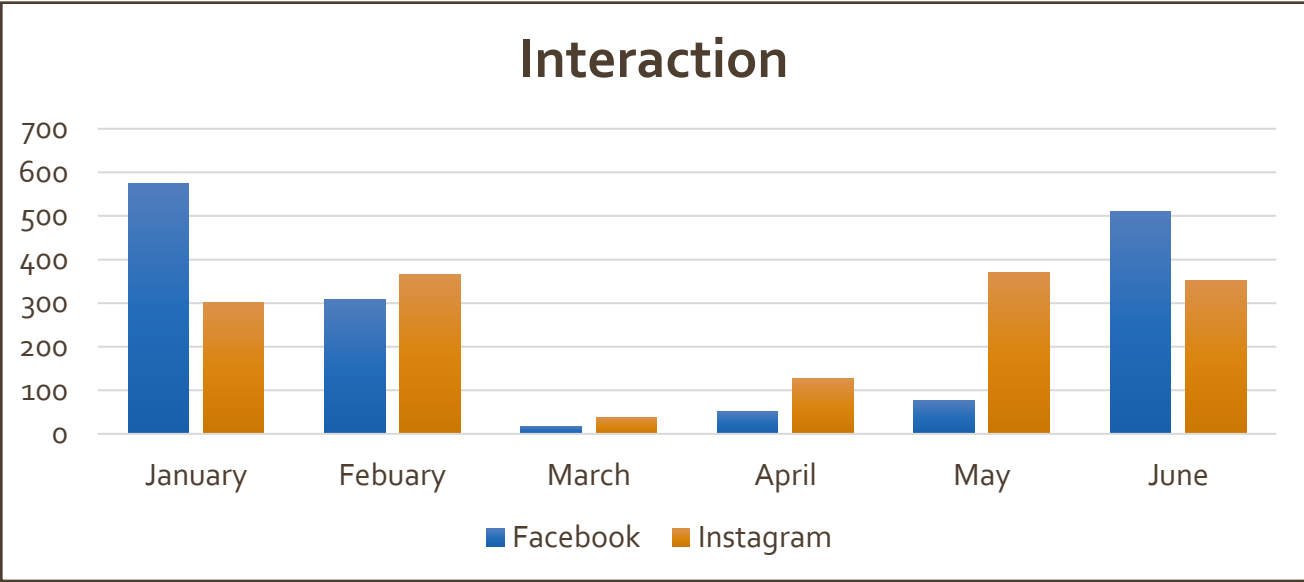


Fig 2. The number of likes or reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies on your content

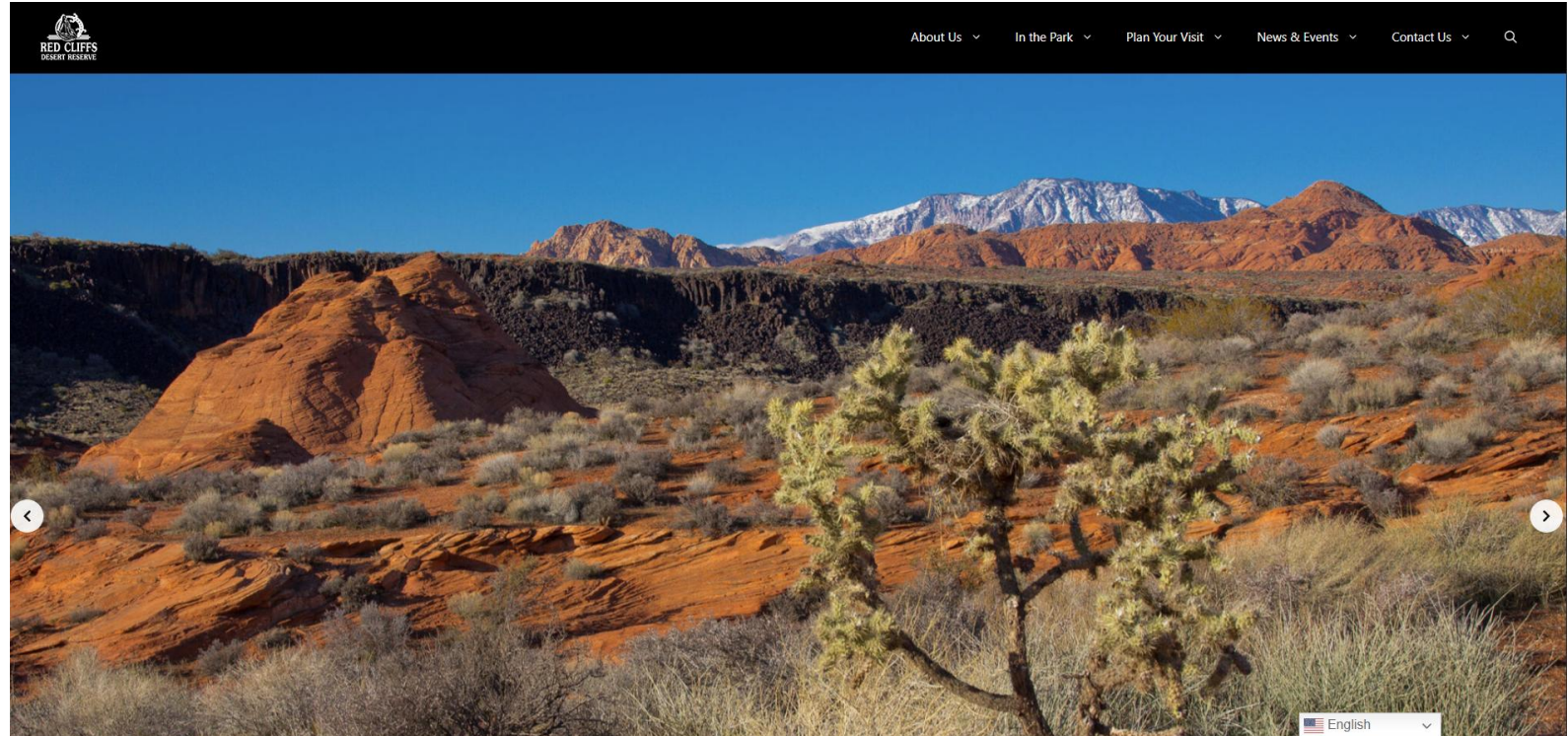
Redesigned Website Launch

Redesign launched on April 1st

- Unique Visitors: 41,135
- Number of Visits: 49,215

A Social Media Feed was added to the website in May

In June a Community Science Page was added



Trail Stewards

Updates and Numbers

Steward Updates

Trail Steward Reporting Streamlined

- Google Form document.

Received **189** reports, totaling **539** hours

Most Popular Trail

- Hellhole Trail

Most Common Violations:

- **Dogs off leash** with 72 observed violations.
- **Off Trail Recreation** with 54 observed violations.

Recruitment

- 3 new applicants
- Looking to bolster the volunteer core with Utah Tech University students and recreation group members.

Veteran Groups Involvement

- I plan to begin working with local Veteran groups to get the involved with the Trail Steward Program in Q3 & Q4

Retirement

- Long time Steward Larry Cazier



GYLAH

Garth Rocks



Location & After



Location: Near the St. George Regional Airport

Land Use: Garth Rocks is a popular local climbing area that has become the focus of a community-led effort to improve recreation access, visitor information and long-term stewardship.

Following the GYLAH cleanup, the City of St. George expressed interest in making the area more accessible and formally recognizing it as a recreation site. The city has asked the Open Space and Recreation Committee to provide recommendations for future improvements.

Proposed additions include, official parking area, informational kiosks highlighting climbing routes, responsible recreation practices and the area's petroglyphs and cultural resources.



RED CLIFFS

DESERT RESERVE

End