



Graffiti Along the Wasatch Front

See It, Report It

Fact Sheet

What is Graffiti?

Graffiti are writings or drawings that have been scribbled, scratched, or painted on a wall or other surface in public without permission. Graffiti range from written words to elaborate paintings. Marking or painting on rocks, boulders, trees, historic properties, or anything else on National Forest System lands (with the exception of a painter's canvas or a sketch book) is considered vandalism and is illegal.



What are the main impacts to National Forest System Lands?

Graffiti is the most visible and prominent crime within National Forest System lands along the Wasatch Front and can make areas that contain a lot of graffiti appear unsafe.

Graffiti impacts how people relate to the Forest:

Many people escape from city life to enjoy the peace and natural setting the National Forest System lands provide. Graffiti adversely impacts many visitors' experiences and may sometimes prevent people from connecting with nature.

Graffiti and activities associated with graffiti impacts our watershed:

The Salt Lake Ranger District, which

oversees the management of much of this area, manages land that supplies more than 60% of the drinking water for Salt Lake City residents. In areas where graffiti dominates the natural setting, human waste, used hypodermic needles, and empty and broken alcohol containers were also commonly found. What goes on the land within the watershed ends up in our water supply – from forest to faucet. The best way to ensure we have high quality and safe drinking water for current and future generations is to protect it at its source.

What is the law against vandalism and what is the fine?

Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 261.9 discusses prohibited acts. Subsection (a) pertains to vandalism on National Forest System lands and states "Damaging any natural feature or other



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property of the United States." The fine is currently \$250. Many of the areas along the Wasatch Front are important historic sites and subsection (g) applies, which states "Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, or in any way damaging any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, or property." The additional fine for vandalizing historic properties is \$200.

What is being done to abate the spread of graffiti along the Wasatch Front?

The Salt Lake Ranger District works with partners and volunteer groups to remove graffiti from the landscape. Working together, a Graffiti Abatement Action Plan has been written. This Action Plan identifies critical steps needed to

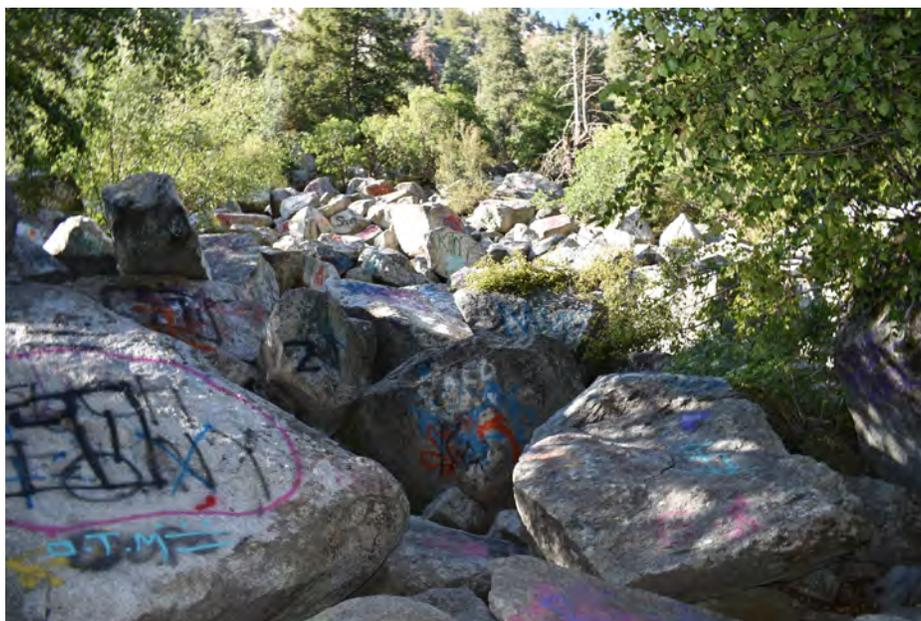
reduce, remove, and eliminate graffiti from National Forest System Lands. Partners are now working together to complete tasks identified.

What Should You Do if You See Graffiti or the Perpetrators?

If you see graffiti vandals, please do not approach or confront them.

Unified Police Department (UPD) patrols the canyons and reports of graffiti in the area can be made via dispatch to (801)743-7000.

If you would like to volunteer at one of our clean-up efforts, please call the Salt Lake Ranger District at (801)733-2660.



The Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

For more information:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/uwcnf>

<https://twitter.com/UWCNF>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Forest-Service-Uinta-Wasatch-Cache-National-Forest/1477262249207367>

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