



United Four Wheel Drive Associations

Protecting, Promoting, and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

UFWDA eNews July 2011

Midsummer in the northern hemisphere and out enjoying the countryside in a 4x4. Well some of it, the rest is being locked away from humans and at a steady rate. There is still time and if the willpower is there too, the trend may yet be blunted, or even reversed in some places.

It does come back always, to having a willingness to do something and UFWDA is willing to lead the charge, but only if the community will support us.... both financially and personally.

Our opponents have accused us of being dirty and ruining the environment but many of those organizations have played rather dirty with public money that could have been used to improve the sustainability of public lands. Instead they've stalled a great number of projects with legal challenges and then claimed the cost of those legal challenges from the public purse.

The wider corporate world does not see commercial advantage in 4x4 recreation, so we can't rely on them for funding but if the hundreds of thousands of 4x4 owners all joined UFWDA, we would have the capabilities to build networks and legal experience to challenge the ongoing land closures.

This edition is again a few days late and it's arrival in your email may well be right on the deadline date for material for the UFWDA Summer edition of Voice. To allow you a few days to finish (or start) that article you've been meaning to send in, you've now got until July 28. Photos are good too.

Peter Vahry – editor - international vice-president
editor@ufwda.org

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**ALERT: Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Plan Revision
Proposed Action 238,000 acres recommended for additional wilderness**

<http://news.snowmobilealliance.org/2011/07/colville-okanogan-wenatchee-forest-plan-revision-more-wilderness/>

It is time to make your voices heard regarding the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee (COW) Forest Plan Revision (FPR) Proposed Action (PA). If you are satisfied with what the Forest Service (FS) has proposed, there is no need to submit a comment. However, if you are not pleased with the PA, then you need to make your voice heard, and you need to do so very soon.

Comment deadline: August 29, 2011.

Send comments to:

Forest Plan Revision
Okanogan Valley Office
1240 Second Avenue South
Okanogan, WA 98840
Email: r6_ewzplanrevision@fs.fed.us

Here is a link to the website describing the proposed action:
[Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Plan Revision Website](#)

Snowmobile Alliance of Western States (SAWS)

Recent UFWDA members



UFWDA welcomes **California Association of 4WD Clubs** as a member association.

<http://www.cal4wheel.com/>



Along with

River City 4X4, Inc.
<http://www.rivercity4x4.org/>

Help unravel an Arizona OHV dilemma, write a letter

OHVAG is: Off Highway Vehicle Advisory Group. They are a team of seven OHV members who evaluate the grants applied for through Arizona State Parks (ASP). ASP are administrators of 3 OHV grants:

1: OHV Gas Tax Dollars... amounting to approx. \$1.5 M a year;

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2: Recreational Trails Program grant dollars (RTP. FEDERAL dollars..... state cannot touch);

3: Our new OHV Sticker money... coming up on a third year and expecting over \$3.0 M dollars. Big splits in these dollars, but OHV receive approximately 66%.

Arizona State Trust Lands are governed by the State Land Dept. (ASLD). They receive 5% of the Gas Tax and OHV Sticker money. They now want nearly \$1.0 M dollars to renegotiate a "grazing" area. I'm now finding they have (behind closed doors) received OHV dollars in the sums exceeding \$120,000.00 specifically for Desert Wells since 2007. NONE of these grants went through the Advisory Group for approval or rejection. In other words the State Parks Board has been doing back door dealings for some time.

Arizona State Parks Board has been openly TAKING POWER over the past three years. They have not listened to nor accepted the OHVAG's recommendations.

Tidbit of History: Three years ago an applicant for a seat within OHVAG, was not affiliated with any OHV group or vehicle..... he was a hunter. The OHVAG denied his application and approved another person..... also a hunter but also an OHV enthusiast with a Jeep and an ATV. He is also handicapped as he's in a wheelchair, so it was felt he brought much knowledge to the Advisory Group. Everything then blew up..... AZ Parks Board refused to ratify the applicant approved by the OHVAG because the other applicants attorney stepped in and raised hell.

It then was pushed that we have a seat for an ENVIRO. That was fought with everything we had. Then it was pushed that "one seat must be from a "hunting group" AND OHV." This was finally accepted by all. (OHVAG is a committee of 7. ALL must be sponsored by OHV. 5 of the seats must be representatives for a specific OHV group. 2 were "members at large" but still an OHV enthusiast. Now one of the Member at Large positions must be a hunter with OHV connections.)

Ever since this mess three years ago, AZ State Parks Board have delayed appointments each year... still trying to implant an ENVIRO into this group. (State Parks has another NON-motorized group that has NO OHV members on it) This year we had an applicant who was approved by the OHVAG, but again the Parks Board refused to ratify him. Then last month, Parks Board brought in two other members (never having submitted applications to the OHVAG) and they openly ignored OHVAG's nomination recommendation and approved the two others..... One whom no one knows anything about.

Then, the issues of ¼ of a million dollars being given to this Desert Wells Recreation area; State Lands Dept. already receives over 1 million dollars from the new OHV Sticker money... Supposed to be for OHV only. The original bill directed 5% of the STICKER money to the Land Dept. for OHV issues. Now State PARKS have decided to group ALL OHV GRANT DOLLARS into ONE fund... i.e. Arizona State Land Dept. (ASLD) now gets 5% of the OHV Gas Tax Funds and the OHV Sticker. We have been unable to get any "review/dollar breakdown/etc" re where the RTP dollars are, as we all know the RTP funds are not available for a state agency to take or use, although the State Parks have diligently tried to take this money for a number of years.

The OHVAG had refused to fund the ¼ million dollars to ASLD because the money was not being spent according to the rules of use. There was another grant issue that was "tabled" due to more research needed. This was for funding to the OHV Ambassadors. Again State Parks Board ignored EVERYTHING the OHVAG voted on and did what they pleased..... Allowed the ¼ million to Desert Wells project AND allowed the money to the OHV Ambassadors.

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There is "talk" within the State Parks Board to disband the OHVAG.... Parks want to do it all.

Bottom line..... I believe our letters need to reflect a bit outside the issue of Desert Wells BUT regarding Desert Wells we need to PUSH the issue of moving the entire recreation area east of Hwy 79. If you check a Google Map for Florence Junction or Florence, you will see Hwy 79 running south to Florence from Hwy 60 at Florence Junction. The WEST side is the existing Desert Wells with 3 very active ranchers, but the area has been split into 3 separate sections now by State Land Dept., with rock quarrying leases.

The OHV area is now very small along Hwy 60 at the west side. East of Hwy 79 is State Trust Lands; the first 3 miles (flat lands) that goes into BLM lands (hilly) east of this. This entire area on the east side of Hwy 79 was one of the FIRST inventoried areas (paid for by OHV dollars). At the time State Land Dept was very involved with this inventory and approved all of the info, records and decisions regarding the trails on State Lands as well as worked with us re BLM lands. After the Preferred Alternative was done and over 1200 miles of trails were agreed upon, the OHV lead from State Lands retired..... New gal then decided "NO STATE LANDS COULD SHOW ON ANY MAPS OR PLANS INVOLVING OHV". Even though a very nice recreation plan was developed for the State Lands, we're not allowed to do anything now; although if an OHV enthusiast has a State Lands Recreation Permit, they can travel on existing trails in this area.

What our attorney has proposed to State Parks is this: Allow for a training area just inside the State Lands on the east side of Hwy 79 and then push everyone to the BLM lands (3 miles east). I HATE this plan as it puts ALL dirt bikes and ATV's on the same trails as 4x4's. There are no designated ATV trails or single track trails within the BLM travel plans. (The BLM plans have just this past Jan. been approved.... took over 8 years to do).

It's my understanding that one of the OHVAG members (he will be off at the end of this year) is working with legislation to move the grant monies from State Parks to Game & Fish. We're all for this, so long as it's done without screwing up more of our grant monies. As it is right now State Parks was able to obtain \$698,100.00 from the OHV Gas Tax Dollars to fund the State Parks program!!!! State Parks are ALL NON-MOTORIZED.

For your letters:.....

State Parks Director Rene Bahl : rbahl@azstateparks.gov (ask that it go to **all** Parks Board members)

OHVAG President John Savino : Showlowjohn@aol.com

Jay Ziemann Asst Director State Parks : zjiemann@azstateparks.gov (ask that it go to **all** Parks Board members)

Rep Jerry Weiers (OHV Bill sponsor): jpweiers@azleg.gov

Please BCC Jeff Gursh and Nick Simonetta on your email letter and any response you get.

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Jeff Gursh: gursh1spud@aol.com

Nick Simonetta: nsimonetta@krbconsulting.com

An example of letters being sent...

"Please let it be known that while we support the concept of the Desert Wells OHV area, we DO NOT support the OHV grant of \$850,000.00 to revegetate areas of Desert Wells with grass seed.

At its inception, Desert Wells had the potential to be a valuable OHV recreation area for Arizona, however recent fragmentation of the area has drastically reduced its potential. Spending almost a million dollars of the OHV Sticker Fund on growing grass, which the cattle will eat, is not in keeping with the spirit of the OHV Sticker Fund. The ASLD should consider closing Desert Wells and reallocating any OHV resources East to the Middle Gila area."

The next Parks Board meeting is Aug 19th.

Sandee McCullen

Changed Southwestern Forests

http://www.cpluhna.nau.edu/Research/changed_southwestern_forests.htm

Author: [Marlin A. Johnson](#). From a paper presented at the Forest Ecology Working Group session at the Society of American Foresters National Convention held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November. 9-13, 1996.

Abstract

Over 150 years of occupancy by northern Europeans has markedly changed vegetative conditions in the Southwest. Less fire due to [grazing](#) and [fire suppression](#) triggered a shift to forests with very high tree densities, which in turn contributed to destructive forest fires. Options to deal with these changes include prescribed fire, thinning and timber harvest to mimic natural disturbances and conditions. However, there are barriers to implementing these activities on a scale large enough to have a significant benefit.



Ponderosa pine forest near Flagstaff, early 1900's. Note open structure and herbaceous understory. Courtesy of Cline Library Special Collections, Northern Arizona University.

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Excitement builds over AOAA proposal

Published: July 10, 2011

Northumberland County Planning Department and others involved in the proposed Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA) have presented a strong argument that the park can be a success.

Just as importantly, they have addressed two key concerns: the cost for "local" residents to ride; and allowing hunting, hiking and other non-motorized activities to continue on the park's nearly 6,600 acres.

Cost to local residents was taken into consideration in the proposed \$80 annual pass. The assumption is that most people who buy an annual pass would be local. If a person rides even 10 times per year, that translates to \$8 per outing - a cheap admission to any entertainment venue. The \$80 fee is also just a little more than the \$65 and \$60 charged for season passes at the pools in Shamokin and Mount Carmel, respectively, which are open less than three months.

As for hunting, the Enterprise or "Alaska" site will be closed to motorized activity, allowing hunting to take place there year-round. Otherwise, the entire park will close from the Saturday before Thanksgiving through the first week of January to allow hunters unrestricted access. That covers the big game seasons, and it's a concession to hunting interests. Certainly, a lot of hunting opportunities occur outside that time frame, however, and there perhaps is still room for negotiation.

Otherwise, off-road manufacturers have taken notice and lent early financial support to the park; riding organizations are saying, "Build it and we'll come;" local and regional business people are behind the project, and state officials have praised the effort - a hopeful precursor to their continued financial backing.

No one wants to see government involved in a business enterprise, but Northumberland County commissioners are correct in wanting to maintain control of this remote property because of the valuable coal that's still there. Otherwise, much of this coal land and forest is in many cases being abused through dumping, unauthorized off-road riding, burning or other destructive practices.

For an understanding of what a lack of control can mean, take a look at the continued grumblings in and around Trevorton. A regulated riding area can eliminate unlawful riding, erosion, littering, trespassing and a general lack of respect for neighbors and host communities.

Risk is inherent in any business venture, and it's unnerving when a government body is involved. But this situation is unique, and as long as the county continues to steer clear of the use of taxpayer dollars, the AOAA plan should proceed.

Of course, timing is everything, and to expect \$1.5 million from the state after what has transpired this budget season is very wishful thinking.

Nonetheless, the excitement is building for this potential tourist attraction and economic spark. We hope the state takes notice and finds a way to help fund this worthwhile endeavor.

Read more: <http://newsitem.com/opinion/excitement-builds-over-aoaa-proposal-1.1173226#ixzz1RkuGn3Vf>

Australian updates

26-28 August 2011

Sydney 4WD & ADVENTURE SHOW

<http://sydney.4wdshow.com.au/index.phtml>

Presented by the 4WD Clubs of ACT and NSW in association with the National 4WD Council, the Show is designed as a one-stop place for outdoor enthusiasts to find all the products, information, advice and entertainment they need to get equipped for their next offroad adventure. With exhibits covering new release vehicles, 4wd accessories, 4wd clubs, offroad caravans and camper trailers, fishing and boating, camping accessories, electronics, tourism and destinations, and lifestyle products - there really is something for everyone!



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Four-wheel drive club helps out with South Ballina beach cleanup

Media release: 17 May 2011

The Tweed Valley Four-wheel Drive Club and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) rangers did a clean up of rubbish over 25 kilometres of beach from South Ballina Wall to a few kilometres north of Evans Head last Saturday. This operation was undertaken with the support of the Crown Lands Division of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI).



Four-wheel drive club member and clean-up leader, Max Willoughby, said that the club was keen to help out with the rubbish clean up as it was important for beach users to contribute to conserving the environment which they enjoy. "Responsible beach users have a role to play and the club was happy to help out to clean up South Ballina Beach," Mr Willoughby said.

NPWS Ranger, Liz Dargin, said that almost one and a half tonnes of rubbish were removed from the beach with the help of 23 hard working members of the club who also enjoyed a picnic lunch.

"The main type of rubbish removed was plastic bottles and ocean debris," Ms Dargin said. "With the recent floods a lot of material has been washed down the rivers and onto the beaches.

"The stretch of beach between South Ballina and Evans Head is an important habitat for nesting shorebirds such as endangered Pied Oyster catchers, Little Terns and Beach Stone curlews.

Green and Loggerhead turtles have also been known to nest in this area. "Rubbish forms a danger to native wildlife as they can eat or become trapped in it. It is also unsightly for people who want to enjoy this beautiful stretch of beach.

"The combined effort of the Tweed Valley Four-wheel Drive Club members, NPWS staff and NSW DPI working together resulted in a cleaner beach for our threatened species and beach users."

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California OHV Leadership Meets in State Capital

Sacramento, California 7/19/2011

Off-highway vehicle leadership from the AMA District 36, District 37, American Sand Association, the California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs, California-Nevada Snowmobile Association, and the Off-Road Business Association met with Aaron Read and Associates this week to discuss continued reallocation of California's OHMVR trust fund monies in the form of loans and, most recently, rationalization of a permanent 10 million dollar loss of gasoline tax investments into the fund. The goal of the meeting was education about potential solutions for permanent protection of the OHMVR Trust, and what options OHV leadership should consider to best fill a potential shortfall in the more than 85 million dollar annual operating budget required to maintain the state's OHMVR program.

The State of California, like most states, is facing tough choices in establishing a balanced budget. Faced with significant loss of services, Governor Jerry Brown has tasked legislatures with spreading cuts to all areas. OHV leadership expressed fear of drastic reduction in the OHMVR program, and the continued loss of reserves earmarked for acquisitions and large capitol improvements of State Vehicle Recreation Areas (SVRA) to Aaron Read and Associates in an effort to establish a long-term action plan for continuation of a solvent program.

The 2011/2012 California State Budget will remove 31 million dollars from the OHMVR Trust Fund by means of a 21 million dollar loan from the OHMVR trusts reserves, and the redistribution of 10 million dollars of California gasoline tax before it enters the State Parks budget. The OHMVR's budget is made up primarily from the investment of approximately 65 million dollars in California gasoline tax, with approximately 17 million in "Green Sticker" registration and 3 million in SVRA fees making up the rest of the annual budget respectively. Reserves are normally used for capital improvements to SVRA or potential acquisitions of new SVRA opportunities.

Since the creation of the Chappie Z'berg Act in 1971, the program's self-funded budget has been under continued attack in the form of redistribution of funds by way of loans, most of which have never been remunerated back to the program. With a history of loss, OHV leadership hopes to explore ways in which the program can assure continued success in providing self-funded high quality OHV recreation, law enforcement support, education of safe and responsible OHV operation, grants to federal OHV projects, conservation, restoration, and acquisition of new properties.

While the October 2007 SB742 law reformed the OHMVR program, OHV leadership, understanding changes to State budget concerns, now feels that additional steps may be necessary to ensure the protection of a very successful OHMVR program for our future generations of Californians.

Read more:

http://www.motorcyclistonline.com/newsandupdates/motorcycle_news/122_1107_california_ohv_leaders_hip_meets_in_state_capital/index.html#ixzz1SdMBBVUs

Beautiful, but problematic, nonnative invasive plants identified in field guide

Pacific Northwest Research Station/U.S. Forest Service

[News & Information](#)

Contact: Andrew Gray, (541) 750-7252, agray01@fs.fed.us

Beautiful, but problematic, nonnative invasive plants identified in field guide

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PORTLAND, Ore. July 13, 2011. Thumbing through this guide and viewing the color and beauty of each plant, it is hard to realize that these are pests and invasive species. The recent release, *Nonnative Invasive Plants of Pacific Coast Forests: A Field Guide for Identification*, by the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, is a concise and well-illustrated field guide for novice botanists and managers alike.

"Nonnative plants affect the composition and function of natural and managed landscapes. They can have a large economic effect on landowners and local governments through eradication costs and lost or degraded land use," according to lead author and Forest Service research ecologist Andrew Gray.

The 91-page color guide provides detail on each plant in nontechnical language and photos of different stages of plant development are included to allow reliable identification in the field at different times of the year. Information was synthesized from various national, regional, and state lists, assessments, and botanical guides.

"Our final list was designed to capture species believed to be most prevalent or problematic for use in strategic forest inventories like the Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis Program," adds Gray.

Little comprehensive information exists on the abundance, distribution, and impact of nonnative plants. The lack of identification guides with sufficiently specific descriptions and detailed images makes collecting information on the impact of invasives difficult. Gray and his colleagues, Katie Barndt, an instructor at North Seattle Community College, and Sarah Reichard, professor at the University of Washington's School of Forest Resources, designed a study to prioritize a list of nonnative invasive plants affecting forest lands in the Pacific coastal states. This field guide is the result of their study and covers California, Oregon, and Washington.

To download the guide visit http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr817.pdf or order a hard copy by sending an e-mail to pnw_pnwpubs@fs.fed.us. Ask for PNW-GTR-817

Tread Lightly! education

We have recently added a new list of activities to the website that can be utilized working with clubs, classes, youth, etc as we all continue to encourage responsible use of public lands.

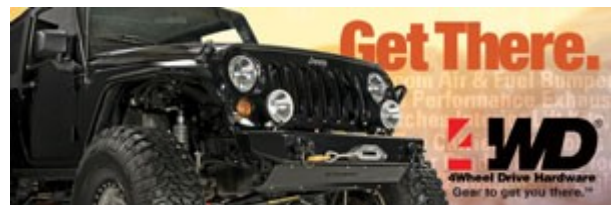
Our "Education Trunk" page includes details on numerous activities that can be used in formal and informal situations.

They can all be viewed here: <http://www.treadlightly.org/page.php/education-trunk/>

Annual 4Wheel Drive Hardware Jamboree

<http://www.4wd.com/jeep-events/jamboree.aspx>

Two day event: July 22 and 23 (Friday and Saturday)



4Wheel Drive Hardware – Columbiana, OH [View Map](#)

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Forest trees, rocks and erosion trail blazing work for forest trail crews

Published on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 12:10 AM PDT

Cindy Thill
US Forest Service Public Affairs

Anxious recreationists keep the phone lines busy at most Forest Service offices this time of year. It's no wonder as the long winter has disappeared, the snowpack, at almost twice the yearly average, is melting swiftly under the current warm weather. Forest users are ready to camp, hike, fish, and dust off their motorcycles.

Local trail crews on the Kern River Ranger District, under the direction of Assistant Recreation Officer, Bob Frenes, are putting in long days to open roads and trails across the southern end of the forest to accommodate those recreationists. And, it is no small task. Approximately 600 miles of Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails and miles of forest roads throughout the Piutes, Greenhorn Mountains, Breckenridge, Scodies and the Kern Plateau are presently being opened by two Forest Service Trail Crews (Piute and Blackrock) and three OHV Patrols (Blackrock, Piutes and Greenhorn). Roads and trails are also cleared for administrative use as Forest Service employees require access to seasonal high country work stations and fire lookouts.

Frenes stated, 'Heavy winter snowfall has put us close to 6 weeks behind schedule. We are experiencing a significant amount of downed trees, rock slides and erosion.'

Trails and roads are littered with trees affected by winter conditions. Chainsaws get a workout for days on end as these crews work to cut and remove trees. As part of road maintenance backhoes are also utilized on roads to fill in the ruts left from the winter rains, clean out clogged culverts and remove large rocks. Shovels and asphalt brooms are also used for portions of the road.

Frenes stated, "Crews have already removed and cleared over 800 trees, from trails and roads and we will most likely be removing close to 1,300 by the time we are done." The record high numbers of downed trees this year are due to a wet winter with heavy snow fall saturating the ground coupled with windy conditions. Forest visitors are being advised of this safety issue.

By July 4 holiday, Frenes' OHV patrols and Trail crews, with assistance from firefighting personnel, were able to open 50 percent of the OHV trails. Some trails are still inaccessible to clear at higher elevations due to snow.

The Forest Service recommends all recreationists utilizing forest trails, roads and/or camping be safe and aware of your surroundings. Use caution when hiking and biking as safety conditions on a trail can change.

For updates and current conditions, please call the Forest Service Station in Kernville at (760) 376-3781 or the Lake Isabella Office at (760) 379-5646.

UFWDA mail address

Please help us by using this new address....

United Four Wheel Drive Associations Inc.

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