



United Four Wheel Drive Associations

Protecting, Promoting, and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

UFWDA eNews November 2011

Finally, almost back to the original schedule for these eNews.

There will be a few folk who might be getting this for the first time and some are those who have subscribed to the UFWDA 'land use' bulletins, but may have wondered when they'd get something.

UFWDA have been looking for someone to take the role of land use director on the Board, but so far there's not been much interest. The land use director was to be managing the bulletins and the land use committee, with its schedule of conference calls. That committee is functional and welcomes land use representatives from organizations, to take part. You do need to register with landuse@ufwda.org so we can send out the conference call information. Oh, if you are interested in that UFWDA role, please contact president@ufwda.org

An edition of 'Voice' is due out at the end of November and we've added another contributor with a passion for OHV recreation, while challenging us to do more to avoid its extinction. Frankly Bernard, I certainly agree with your sentiments and hope the Voice readers respond.

I've borrowed a couple of excellent 'political' alerts from the AMA and urge you to follow those through, as it is only by us standing to be counted, that the lawmakers will take notice.... and even then they might not, but that's at their risk.

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

Headlines

- **RTP - U.S. Senate Votes on Proposal for Trail Funding**
- **UFWDA quick survey**
- **Here we go again: Recreational opportunities at risk**
- **Google's Autonomous Car Takes To The Streets**
- **Report: Roads, not clear-cutting, to blame for erosion in California**
- **FWD Victoria 'Track Watch'**
- **TNF Plans to Re-Issue Vehicle Use Maps**
- **America's Great Outdoors Initiative Ignores Motorized Recreation**
- **Cal4's newest edition of 'In Gear'**
- **Interactive Recreation Maps a Great Improvement to Forest Service Websites**
- **GOP Lawmakers Challenge White House on 'Scientific Misconduct'**
- **UFWDA Voice autumn edition**

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

RTP - U.S. Senate Votes on Proposal for Trail Funding

Courtesy of American Motorcycle Association
Thursday, November 10, 2011

The U.S. Senate will vote on a bill that would end the dedicated funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), which is considered to be one of the most important and beneficial laws for off-highway vehicle (OHV) riders ever passed by Congress, the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) reports.

The RTP, which provides money to states to develop and maintain trails, would lose dedicated funding under provisions in a transportation funding authorization bill -- S. 1813, "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century" (MAP-21) -- which was approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee by an 18-0 vote on Nov. 9.

It's unknown when the full Senate will vote on the measure.

The RTP became law in 1991 as part of a federal transportation funding authorization bill. Wayne Allard, AMA vice president for government relations, was shocked by the committee vote and noted that abolishing the RTP dedicated funding would effectively create a tax increase on OHV riders because the RTP funds would no longer be designated for a program that benefits motorized trail users.

"Motorcyclists pay the gasoline taxes that go to sustain the trails program," Allard said. "Many interests pull from the highway fund and do not pay into it! It becomes akin to a tax increase to the general fund.

"This program was created for trail users and is self-funded by the highway fuel taxes of trail users," he added. "Trail users see this program as a very essential part of their chosen form of recreation, and there's no reason to redirect the funding for the program. The RTP pays for itself."

The RTP represents a portion of the federal motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use. In other words, taxes generated by fuel used for OHV recreation -- by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles and off-highway light trucks -- fund the RTP.

"I urge all concerned riders to contact their U.S. senators and ask them to support continued dedicated funding for the Recreational Trails Program," Allard said. "Money for the program comes from off-highway riders and should continue to be used to benefit off-highway riders."

The easiest way to contact lawmakers is by going to www.AmericanMotorcyclist.com > Rights > Issues & Legislation.

UFWDA also offer an option to contact lawmakers...<http://www.ufwda.org/write-your-congressman/>

UFWDA quick survey

Last month UFWDA initiated a 'quick survey' using the email notice to subscribers, but since many others get their copy in other ways, we've included the link here too.

<http://surveys.benchmarkemail.com//Survey/Start?id=105496&s=18665>

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

Here we go again: Recreational opportunities at risk

Contact your Representative to oppose H.R. 3334!



[Take Action!](#)

On Nov. 3, 2011, Rep. [Carolyn Maloney](#) (D-NY) introduced [H.R. 3334](#), the latest version of the controversial Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA). The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) is concerned about this bill because it will designate nearly 24 million acres as Wilderness and components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. This Wilderness designation will make the land off limits to off-highway riders.

Our public lands are for the enjoyment of all Americans. Enthusiasts who enjoy the public lands of our nation are not just the nimble and fit but also families with small children who wish to recreate together as well as active senior citizens and the handicapped who enjoy the freedom to access the outdoors that off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) provide.

The AMA fully supports appropriate Wilderness designations where there is broad local support. However, Congress must designate new Wilderness areas as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964. H.R. 3334 does not meet the definition of Wilderness. Indeed, the Wilderness Act defines Wilderness, with a capital 'W', as those areas which are essentially in a natural state, where changes are produced by the environment itself - not by the hand of man. Much of the land in question is criss-crossed by roads, trails, power lines, dams, bridges and structures.

It is also important to note that while all of the affected land in this legislation is in the western United States, the legislation was offered by a Representative from New York City. Not one House member representing the affected areas has chosen to co-sponsor H.R. 3334. This is very telling-the local population in the area affected does not support this bill.

This single piece of legislation proposes to increase Wilderness by nearly 25 percent in one stroke of the pen without local support of those who recreate on that land.

In fact, a compelling argument could be made that this type of broad legislation does more to protect public lands from future generations rather than for future generations.

We need your help to stop H.R. 3334 in its tracks. The fastest way to reach your Representative is to call them. You can find contact information for your elected officials by entering your zip code on www.AmericanMotorcyclist.com, clicking on "Rights," then "Issues and Legislation." Additionally, a prewritten e-mail is available for you to send to your Representative immediately by following the "Take Action" option and entering your information.

If this bill were signed into law, the effect on the OHV community would be devastating for generations. Please contact your Representative right away and urge them to oppose H.R. 3334.

Read more:

http://www.motorcyclistonline.com/newsandupdates/motorcycle_news/122_1111_here_we_go_again_recreational_opportunities_at_risk/index.html#ixzz1dTpCHOuy

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

Google's Autonomous Car Takes To The Streets

Evan Ackerman / Tue, October 12, 2010

Remember 5 years ago when a bunch of robotic cars managed to navigate through the desert all by themselves? And remember 3 years ago when a bunch of robotic cars managed to navigate through a (fake) urban area all by themselves? Well, today it's the future, and autonomous robotic cars from Google have already logged 140,000 miles on busy, complex city streets and highways with only occasional human intervention, and 1,000 miles without any human control whatsoever.

Writing about this kind of thing makes me all tingly, because ever since I saw that autonomous Passat park itself at Stanford a year ago, it's become clear that robotic cars aren't some far-off futuristic dream, but that this technology is actually achievable in the near term. I mean, consider how much time you spend in your car effectively doing nothing, and then think about how much things would change if you could be productive (or asleep) instead. And of course, it's not just that: autonomous cars have the potential to reduce traffic by driving closer together, drastically improve gas mileage with cooperative drafting, and (most importantly) significantly reduce the number of car accidents, which cause 1.2 million fatalities worldwide and exponentially more injuries plus untold emotional (and financial) trauma.

For the full article please click on....

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/automaton/robotics/artificial-intelligence/googles-autonomous-car-takes-to-the-streets>

Report: Roads, not clear-cutting, to blame for erosion in California

By [Matt Weiser](#)

The Sacramento Bee

Published: Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011 - 4:02 am

Dirt roads, not logging clear-cuts, are likely the largest source of erosion that may threaten salmon restoration in [Battle Creek](#), an important Sacramento River tributary.

That is the conclusion of a new report by a special state task force, presented Wednesday at a meeting of the California Board of Forestry.

The so-called "rapid assessment" report was ordered by the administration of Gov. [Jerry Brown](#) after a Bee investigation published June 19. The article highlighted conflicts between the state's simultaneous approval of clear-cut logging and its support for the \$128 million restoration project.

The state has contributed \$56 million toward the restoration. It involves removing or modifying numerous small Pacific Gas and Electric Co. dams to return endangered salmon and steelhead to 42 miles of habitat. The restoration is about halfway complete.

Relatively little work has been done, however, to assess habitat conditions once spawning access is restored. [Sierra Pacific](#) Industries owns 82 percent of the private timberland in the watershed, and has logged about 20,000 acres since 1997, according to the report.

The report's authors – state employees who are experts in wildlife, [water quality](#) and logging – inspected 16 miles of streams and 55 clear-cuts on [Sierra Pacific](#) land. The group saw evidence of erosion entering a stream from just one clear-cut.

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

Logging roads and county-maintained roads in the watershed, however, presented a larger threat to water quality. Two-thirds of road crossings at streams, and road segments near streams, were producing erosion. This eroding dirt clogs gravels in which fish deposit their eggs, rendering rivers unfit for spawning.

"[Sierra Pacific](#) actually welcomes this report, which demonstrates the focus of sediment is on roads," said [Cajun James](#), the company's research and monitoring manager. "We feel we're doing the best job we possibly can to reduce sediment inflow."

The Board of Forestry is drafting new rules to address the erosion problem from roads built by logging companies to remove timber. In its recommendations, the task force supports that rule package, and urges counties to adopt similar measures for public roads in rural areas.

The task force also acknowledged limitations in its work. The inspections occurred in the dry season, when erosion is less visible, and included no water quality testing. It also did not consider long-term effects of clear-cutting, or potential for a major storm to cause catastrophic erosion, like an event in 1997.

"The findings actually corroborate very well the concerns brought forward by citizens," said [Jodi Frediani](#), executive director of [Citizens for Responsible Forest Management](#). "There's got to be an independent water quality monitoring program put in place."

The Battle Creek report can be found online at:

http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_business/other_board_actions

Read more: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/11/10/4044266/report-roads-not-clear-cutting.html#ixzz1dTuXS7uZ>

FWD Victoria 'Track Watch'

Just published is FWD Victoria 'Track Watch' digital magazine and it sets a high standard with some excellent articles. (It is a 15Mb download)

http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au/upload/trackwatch/2011/Trackwatch%20October%202011_lo%20res_locked.pdf

Tahoe National Forest issues MVU maps and quickly recalls them!



N E W S R e l e a s e

U S Forest Service
T a h o e N a t i o n a l F o r e s t

Contact: Ann Westling
(530) 478-6205
November 9, 2011

TNF Plans to Re-Issue Vehicle Use Maps

Nevada City The Forest Service is working to correct errors on the Tahoe National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) and hopes to re-issue them by the end of the calendar year, stated Tom Quinn, Forest

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

Supervisor. “We have been carefully assessing these complex maps to identify errors and the reasons for the errors. We are working hard to make the changes so that the public will have them soon.”

The errors were due to a variety of factors; some of which were based on the use of a new system to produce the maps from a recreation data base rather than the more traditional GIS process. Roads that had been previously closed or decommissioned showed up as open. Seasons of use or special use features also showed up incorrectly. The other primary factor dealt with cooperative roads between the Forest Service and Sierra Pacific Industries. Historic easements with SPI did not provide for recreation traffic, but only administrative or timber haul use. “We are continuing to work with SPI on these easements. These changes are not quick fixes, but will take more negotiation with SPI. Because of this, some of the roads that were on our Record of Decision map, will not show on the next edition of the MVUM due to these ongoing discussions,” stated Quinn.

Once re-issued, the maps will be free and will identify what roads, trails and areas will be available for motorized travel. They will show the seasons of use and types of vehicles that can be used on the many roads and motorized trails available.

America's Great Outdoors Initiative Ignores Motorized Recreation

A commentary posted on the Pirate 4x4 forum....

Having participated in the two original “America’s Great Outdoors Idea Jam” on-line forums for a year or more, I find the press release included below very disturbing.

As other members of this forum who also lived on those forums countering the environmental groups would attest, the “Top Innovator” was Chris Horgan of “Save the Trails” fame (<http://www.savethetrails.us/>) having attained that status with pro-motorized access ideas.

Others submitted tons of OHV friendly “Ideas”. There was a landslide positive assertion of and “grassroots voice” for this valid form of recreation (<http://www.savethetrails.us/AGO-Results.html>) yet the following announcement by Secretary Salazar totally ignores that voice, instead deferring to the predetermined agenda as predicted.

"Salazar releases 50-state report highlighting projects to promote conservation, outdoor recreation" (Department of the Interior news, 11/3/11)

Contact: Adam Fetcher, (DOI) 202-208-6416

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today released a final 50-State America’s Great Outdoors Report outlining more than 100 of the country’s most promising projects designed to protect special places and increase access to outdoor spaces. The full report – which contains two projects per state – comes as part of President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative to establish a community-based, 21st century agenda for conservation, recreation, and reconnecting Americans to the outdoors.

“We have listened to the American people and their elected representatives about the most important

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

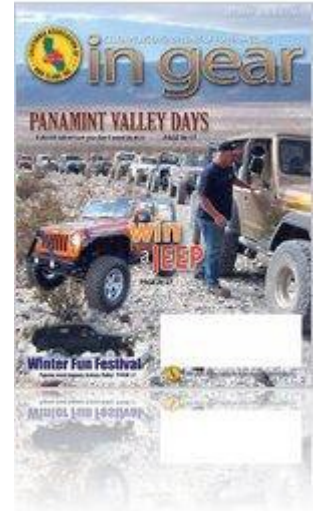
things we can do to conserve our land and water and reconnect people, especially young people, to the outdoors,” Salazar said. “These projects represent what states believe are among the best investments in the nation to support a healthy, active population, conserve wildlife and working lands, and create travel, tourism and outdoor-recreation jobs across the nation.”

The full list released today includes:

For the full article please click on <http://www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=3501>

Cal4's newest edition of 'In Gear'

Click on the image to read this publication



Interactive Recreation Maps a Great Improvement to Forest Service Websites



By [Teena Ligman](#) on Oct 10, 2011 *The new Forest Service portal websites offer recreation maps as an improved marketing tool.*

One of the best features of the new Forest Service web template is the ability to plot each of our recreation sites on a map by latitude and longitude and have them show up in context with other Forest sites. Completing the spreadsheet of GPS locations and type of use for each recreation area is relatively simple. From that information, the portal is able to plot icons for each site on the landscape.

Visitors can zoom in or out and see our sites on the landscape. They can shift the screen around to see how close the site is to the nearest town or to another site they might want to visit. Since the maps are on Google Maps other major points are also highlighted or visible on the map as well.

To read the full story click on <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=6316>

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide



UFWDA ONLINE STORE

"Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 opportunities World Wide"



Your purchase helps promote, preserve, and protect public access!

- Clearance Items!**
- Navy Hooded Sweatshirt
 - Khaki Hooded Sweatshirt
 - Yellow Hooded Sweatshirt
 - Green Hooded Sweatshirt
 - Navy Crewneck Sweatshirt
 - Khaki Crewneck Sweatshirt
 - Yellow Crewneck Sweatshirt

Clearance Prices for a limited time only!

- New Items!**
- UFWDA Jackets for Men and Women
 - Peat Sorb- for all your vehicle fluid spill needs!



www.UFWDA.org/Store



GOP Lawmakers Challenge White House on 'Scientific Misconduct'

Published October 20, 2011

FoxNews.com

Several Republican lawmakers are challenging the Obama administration's science czar over what they claim are repeat incidents of "scientific misconduct" among agencies, questioning whether officials who deal with everything from [endangered species](#) to nuclear waste are using "sound science."

The letter sent Wednesday to [John Holdren](#), director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, cited four specific controversies in recent years where scientific findings were questioned. Sens. [David Vitter](#), R-La., and James Inhofe, R-Okla., and Rep. [Darrell Issa](#), R-Calif., rattled off a slew of questions on what they called "the apparent collapse in the quality of scientific [work](#) being conducted at our federal agencies."

"Specifically, we are concerned with data quality, integrity of methodologies and collection of information, agencies misrepresenting publicly the weight of scientific 'facts,' indefensible representations of scientific conclusions before our federal court system, and our fundamental notions of 'sound' science," they wrote. "We identify in this letter important examples of agency scientific misconduct."

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

Inhofe spokesman Matt Dempsey told FoxNews.com the issues in the letter had been on Republicans' radar screen "for some time." But he said the lawmakers decided to compile them and confront the administration about it out of concern that a "trend" was developing.

"The concern is there's a lot more there," he said.

To read the full article : <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2011/10/19/gop-lawmakers-challenge-white-house-on-scientific-misconduct/>

UFWDA Voice autumn edition

A reminder that the next edition, the Autumn Voice, is due out within a month and **any last material must be sent in by 20 Nov.** Get your stories and photos and send to editor@ufwda.org

There must be some great photos of those Autumn 4x4 trips and this is your chance to see them in the UFWDA 'Voice'.

UFWDA mail address

Please help us by using this address....

**United Four Wheel Drive Associations Inc.
PO Box 316
Swartz Creek
MI 4847**

The deadline for contributions to UFWDA e-News, is the 10th of each month. Please send materials to e-news@ufwda.org

To use materials from UFWDA e-News, please acknowledge the source. UFWDA e-News is collated from many sources and may not represent nor constitute endorsement by UFWDA Inc.

Copyright United Four Wheel Drive Associations 2011

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

2012 UFWDA Annual General Meeting July 21st - 25th York, Pennsylvania



The PA Jeeps Club is hosting the 2012 AGM and is putting together a package that you need to experience. Our planned schedule is as follows...

**Saturday July 21st and 22nd
17th Annual All Breeds Jeep Show**



www.pajeeps.org

Monday July 23rd and 24th - UFWDA General Meetings



www.wingateyork.com

Wednesday July 25th - All Day Trail Ride



Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide