



United Four Wheel Drive Associations

Protecting, Promoting, and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

UFWDA eNews August 2014

Those words and photos for the next UFWDA Voice didn't pour in as was anticipated so the deadline has been stretched again for a few more days. There must be some adventures and overland excursions from the recent months.

UFWDA recently received an email from a company planning to create a 'mini-series' documentary around the story of 'jeep'. They're looking for an 'executive producer' and some additional capital, so if you're a 'jeep' enthusiast with the resources to help this project, then move smartly and drop an email to eddie@mc2inc.org for some details. They plan on getting underway in early September and would like to film in the PA region if they can.

As the northern Summer winds down and the business of politics and 4x4 recreation access steps up, UFWDA would like to again be in a position to get representation at meetings in Washington DC. To do that, we too need the finances. Please consider donating to UFWDA to enable us to again extend our reach into the halls of power. We've made it [simple](#) for you to help UFWDA.

In the same vein, UFWDA could still use some help with guiding our organization. We're hoping that somewhere there's a four wheeler with the skills and time to take the role of UFWDA president and maybe another to help us with managing our membership process. In fact let's not stop there... we can find roles for a whole array of suitable volunteers! Research, graphics generation, pr writers, social media gurus, etc. etc.

Volunteer and we'll find a role that fits your skills, it's still people who make things happen.

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

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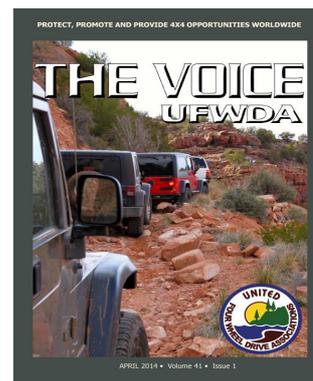
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UFWDA online magazine 'Voice' deadline

Gather up those stories of summer adventures and of places that are still open to 4x4 recreation.

Although the deadline for the next edition of Voice was 8th August 2014, more of your adventures and events are needed... you've got until 20th August as the absolute deadline please.

Photos!!! the more people take, the less they publish them! If you've a few good images of your 4x4 adventures, it would be great to consider them for publication in Voice.



If you are, or would like to be **an advertiser in Voice**, then that's your new deadline too, but please contact Michelle at business@ufwda.org

We've not yet resolved the problem of getting Voice available on Apple devices but we are now including a standard PDF version on the website for those who prefer not to use 'Flash' delivery. It is recommended that you open the PDF with an Adobe Reader version higher than 8.0.

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

UFWDA are happy to consider publishing members views on the issues that impact our recreation.

editor@ufwda.org

Virginia 4WDA activities

There have been several events for VA4WDA members so far this year and I hope that you're getting out there to enjoy our sport. In April alone the following events took place: VA4WDA had an Earth Day Clean-up in the George Washington National Forest,.



4-Plus had their Annual Fishing Tournament on the Outer Banks of NC, Big Dog's Icebreaker held in Gore and Wheeling for Hope held at Oak Ridge Estate. All of these events either contributed to the environment or to great charities.

We also brought two new Business Members (Southern Jeep Dodge and Eastern Truck and Accessory) into our VA4WDA family and renewed three previous Business members (Big Dogs Off-road, Starr Motors and Sandy Schneirla Prudential Towne Realtor). Please think about using these Business Members when you're looking to have something done.

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VA4WDA has a new mailing address, PO Box 6612 Virginia Beach, VA 23456. The old address will be usable for the next six months, but please note our new address and send all correspondence and membership renewals to the Virginia Beach address.

Sandy W. Schneirla VA4WDA, Vice President

Olympic National Forest wants input

Approximately 2,000 miles of Forest roads provide access for resource management, recreation, and other uses. About 1,400 miles are open to motorized vehicles and 600 miles are closed, that may be opened for resource management.

As part of a national effort, we are conducting a road system analysis to identify the minimum road system needed “for travel and for administration, utilization, and protection of National Forest System lands.” * _

By the Fall of 2015, we will integrate agency and public input to produce a travel analysis report that will provide the basis for developing future proposed actions for travel management.

Your participation will help us understand your access needs! [Learn how to help.](#)



Open house meetings

Tuesday August 19, 2014, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Shelton, Washington, Shelton Civic Center, 525 Cota St.

Thursday August 21, 2014, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Aberdeen, Washington, Rotary Log Pavillion, 1401 Sargent Blvd.

Wednesday August 27, 2014, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Olympia, Washington, Olympic National Forest, Supervisor’s Office, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW

Comments close on August 31 2014

NMOHVA Board Votes to Appeal Federal Court's Decision

In a special board meeting, the NMOVHA Board of Directors voted unanimously to appeal Judge Johnson's recent ruling against our lawsuit. This decision was reached after a thorough discussion of our case, the costs of an appeal, and the advice of our attorney Karen Budd-Falen. The appeal will be heard by the US 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Why We Are Appealing: Judge Johnson agreed with the major point of our legal challenge, but decided that point wasn't enough to throw out the Santa Fe's travel management decision. Our attorney strongly believes the judge's decision is not in accordance with the law. By appealing, we have another chance to argue the case before the higher level court. If we don't appeal, the case is finished. Can we win? Quite possibly. Can we lose? We can; but we definitely have lost if we don't appeal.

What Laws Were Broken? The law says the environmental impact statement's "no action" alternative (the baseline condition) must include all the roads and trails that were legal to use. The Santa Fe National Forest environmental impact statement (EIS) deliberately excluded 2,200 miles (about 30%) of

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roads and trails. The Forest Service fully acknowledged these excluded routes were part of the official transportation system.

They Did What? Imagine you have \$7,200 in bank. Then the bank decides it will only count \$5,000 because you are "not using" the other \$2,200. And your \$2,200 disappears. Sound insane? The Santa Fe National Forest did just that. It closed those 2,200 miles under the excuse that the public wasn't using them. Our lawsuit argued that the 2,200 miles must be counted because they were official, existing, and legal to use. The judge agreed it was illegal not to count them; but then he let the Santa Fe National Forest do it anyway.

The judge's decision unexpectedly created another legal issue. There is a specific law that determines whether an EIS is legal or illegal. It's called the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). The APA has two standards (or requirements) for legality. The APA says that to be legal, an EIS must obey both standards. An EIS is illegal if it violates either one OR the other standard. We believe that Judge Johnson did not properly apply the APA. He ruled the Santa Fe's EIS violated one of the two standards, but also ruled that the EIS was still legal. This is like saying it's OK that you were driving without insurance because your car is registered. The driving laws say you are driving illegally if you are missing either insurance OR registration. It is not possible to be missing either one and still be driving legally. But that is just what the judge did. He decided that the EIS was still legal even though it violated one of the two APA standards by "being contrary to law."

This decision creates a legal precedent that makes it twice as hard to fight any agency action in court. You would have to prove an EIS violated both APA standards, instead of just one. This would apply to any lawsuit in the country, filed by anyone, against any agency. Our NMOHVA lawsuit is the only way to overturn the Santa Fe's travel management closures, but now our lawsuit has also become something larger and of national importance.

What Happens Next: We have 60 days from the court's decision to file a Notice to Appeal. It generally takes another 30 days before we get a schedule back from the court. We then would have 30-60 days to file our initial brief. The Department of Justice (representing the Forest Service) and the Western Environmental Law Center (representing the interveners: Center for Biological Diversity/Sierra Club/WildEarth Guardians) will also file briefs. NMOHVA's legal team will then file a final brief before arguing the case before the 10th Circuit judges in Denver, Colorado.

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED!

While we knew an appeal would cost additional money, the decision to appeal was actually an "easy" one. In addition to thinking we have an excellent chance to win the appeal, we believe that it is the right thing to do, it clearly shows that NMOHVA is in the fight for the long haul, and we know that our members expect it. One of our members put it best when he hit the "donate" button last week after the decision was handed down, "GO APPEAL IT!"

Oppose the creation of the Boulder White Clouds National Monument.

The President should not act by fiat to declare a National Monument in Idaho's Boulder-White Clouds. With no imminent threat facing this land, the President should follow the normal, deliberative course for major land use decisions. He should respect the role of Congress. And he should honor the strong land management policies already being carried out by his own Federal agencies.

[Sign the online petition](#)

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King of the Hammers online video

<http://powernationtv.com/episode/XO2014-18/king-of-the-hammers-special>

Even in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, AUG 10 - Around 100 adventure enthusiasts in their 4-wheeled vehicles navigated through rock-laden roads and mud pools inside the Shivapuri National Park in what organisers called the first off road event held in Nepal.

Participants travelled convoy style from Hotel Radisson to the entrance of Shivapuri where the trail began. It ended at Gokarna Forest Resort.

Off roading is driving a vehicle on un-surfaced roads or tracks, made of sand, gravel, riverbeds, mud, snow, rocks, and other natural terrain. A four-wheeled vehicle is an engine with a drive train that allows all four wheels to receive torque at once.

“Adventure tourism has great potential in Nepal and not just for foreigners. People in the valley are just as enthusiastic,” said Avash Nirola, one of the founders of the Yeti 4WD Club, a non-profit club which organised the event. Nirola said the club had been working extensively to ensure a genuine experience for all.

Safety was an important factor, and with the club encouraging families to partake in the event, he maintained it was ‘not a race’ but a chance to explore and have fun. Relatively new drivers were asked to go in front with the more experienced ones driving behind as it gets more challenging once the terrain gets rougher.

While there were a few stops where vehicles got stuck and had to be pushed out, all the vehicles were able to complete the track. “It will get more challenging,” said Vivek Basnyat, founding director of the club. He said the pilot event was to gauge the interest of the people and they had plans to organise such events every three months.

It is not only about recreation but also a great way to explore and provide a platform for domestic tourism, he said. Situated north of Kathmandu Valley, the Shivapuri is the nearest national park from Kathmandu. “Having participants drive through the national park gave them an idea of the flora and fauna and created awareness as to how we can give back,” said Basnyat, who is also a tourism entrepreneur.

For Priya Thapa, a banker, it was an opportunity to explore.

“It becomes rather congested being confined to Kathmandu. Especially the kids don’t get to explore much. It was adventurous and refreshing,” said Thapa, also a member of the club.

Along with organising over landing trips and off road driving events for all owners of four-wheel drive vehicles the club also offers advice and training both in driving and preparation of vehicles and designing off road tracks for leisure and competition, according to the founding members.

Source...<http://www.ekantipur.com/2014/08/10/capital/first-4-wheel-off-road-event-at-shivapuri-national-park/393369.html>

[A 4wd expedition into the Forbidden Kingdom of Lomanthang](#), probably one of the last living museums of Tibetan culture. The expedition by Yeti Travels, lead by 4wd enthusiast Mr. Vivek Basnyat, MD, Yeti Travels goes through the 7km long Kaligandaki gorge where no jeep has ever ventured before ... water upto 4 feet high ... crossing the river over 70 times making it the only jeep to have made it in one piece to Lomanthang.

Contact: sales@yeti.travels

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Outdoorx4 offer 20% off a print subscription



Outdoorx4 have recently re-launched their website and have set up the coupon code of **ufwda2014** (good through 12/31) on their store for 20% off a print subscription to [OutdoorX4](#) for UFWDA members.

Whether you're an avid 4x4 adventure traveler, mountain bike enthusiast, camp cooking aficionado, world-class fisherman, dual-sport motorcyclist or weekend warrior, OutdoorX4 is focused on providing the most engaging and unique content to appeal to the broadest range of outdoors enthusiast while providing expert advice in the field, suggestions on places to visit, along with an expanded perspective on the history of the areas we travel, as well as dynamic photography that inspires the outdoors enthusiast to choose the road less traveled.

UFWDA forum update

The current UFWDA forum is outdated and has needed manual help to register new people for some time. This will shortly change as UFWDA move to a new polished version that should make things more secure and yet easier to interact with. Once the new version is installed it will require a new registration for all users. A notice will go out once the new forum is activated.

BRC BRINGS NEW SUIT TO RESTORE TRAIL ACCESS -THEY'D LIKE SUPPORT

The BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC) has filed a complaint against the Federal government to challenge the arbitrary closure of, "Trail 38," a high value single-track motorcycle trail in Wyoming. The BRC Legal Program is representing a local AMA District club and local users in the case. "Though the trail mileage is small, the stakes are high," said J.R. Riggins, a plaintiff in the suit and Wyoming dirt bike rider. "The Forest Service apparently thought it could fly under the radar and close this trail without meaningful analysis or public process. We are calling their bluff," Riggins concluded.

Since 1997, the BRC Legal Program has sprung to action across the nation to challenge arbitrary closures and defend pro-trail agency decisions. BRC's unmatched investment in legal advocacy for access since 1996 has been \$1,721,195. Many cases involve defense of attacks from anti-access groups. Some, like Trail 38, are efforts to go "on offense" and establish or restore access opportunities. BRC Legal has represented plaintiffs or filed cross-claims against the agency in at least 14 cases.

BRC Legal has appeared in California 15 times, 9 each for Idaho and Utah, 7 in Wyoming, 5 in Montana or on issues of Nationwide importance like Roadless Rule(s), and 3 or less in the remaining states which include Oregon, Alaska, Colorado, Arkansas, Illinois, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Florida. The methods of access at issue have varied too, with 23 matters involving all forms of wheeled access, 14 focused on over-snow vehicles, 9 covering all motorized access, 5 exclusively 4WD, 3 exclusively ATV, 3 boating or personal watercraft, 3 including equestrian access, and 1 backcountry aviation case.

On multiple occasions BRC Legal has brought jurisdictional challenges to anti-access lawsuits that the Government declined to join, the most notable being in the 2001 SUWA lawsuit where our motion was granted in the district court and eventually became the basis for a 9-0 Supreme Court decision that all but killed a growing "failure to act" litigation strategy.

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BRC Legal cannot do its job without your generous support! Please consider a donation today as we stand together in our legal effort to challenge unwarranted closures of public roads, trails, and areas.

Watching those battles from the sidelines is not an option. Our adversaries will pick a path of least resistance, and we need to maintain a legal presence to be reckoned with.

[Donate now](#)

Public Lands for the People Octoberfest Fundraiser

- **WHO:** Open to all outdoor enthusiasts. Organized by Sleepy Bear Mine and American Prospector Treasure Seeker.
- **WHAT:** Public Lands for the People Octoberfest Fundraiser
- **WHERE:** Sleepy Bear Mining
21 Goler Road
Randsburg, CA 93554
- **WHEN:** Oct. 18-19
- **WHY:** To keep public lands open to the public and mix and mingle with other outdoors enthusiasts.
- **HOW:** \$30 per person age 18 and older. Children 17 and under free or \$6 donation for barbecue.
- **TO REGISTER:** For more information and to RSVP online, go to www.aptsgold.com/Drywashing-Gold.html.

National & International Trails Awards

American Trails presents the [National and International Trails Awards Program](#) to recognize the tremendous contributions of volunteers, professionals, and other leaders who are working for the betterment of trails both nationally and internationally. Submit nominations in up to 19 different categories for National & International Trails Awards, to be announced at the 22nd American Trails International Trails Symposium (ITS) Awards Banquet in Portland, Oregon on May 19, 2015. Learn more about the International Trails Symposium [here](#).

The deadline for submitting nominations is September 15, 2014.

[Download the American Trails National and International Trails Awards Nomination Packet by clicking here.](#)

Nominations should be made for actions that took place during the period between August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2014.

Extension of Comment Period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Tonto National Forest Motorized Travel Management

SUMMARY: The Forest Service published a notice of availability in the Federal Register on July 3, 2014 initiating a 45-day comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Tonto National

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Forest Motorized Travel Management plan. The closing date for that 45-day comment period is August 18, 2014. The Agency is extending the comment period; therefore, the comment period has been extended to September 17, 2014.

DATES: **Comments must be received by September 17, 2014.**

<http://www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=4037.msg14607#new>

Ochoco Summit OHV trails plans on hold for now

The Ochoco National Forest has pulled plans for a controversial off-highway vehicle trail system, in response to objections and because of recent wildfire in the area of the proposed trail.

But the plans for a 129-mile system on and around Ochoco Summit aren't dead. Once fire season is over, forest planners are set to start a supplemental environmental review and make changes to the plans, Kate Klein, Ochoco National Forest supervisor, said Wednesday.

"It will be an opportunity to work with the objectors and the public to build a stronger proposal and build more support for the project," she said.

<http://www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=4030.msg14599#msg14599>

UFWDA on Facebook and Twitter too

[Check us out and maybe 'like' us!](#)

Find UFWDA on [Twitter](#) as [@ufwdaorg](#)
You may even find other information on Twitter

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The deadline for contributions to UFWDA eNews, is the 10th of each month.
Please send materials to editor@ufwda.org

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