



United Four Wheel Drive Associations

Protecting, Promoting, and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

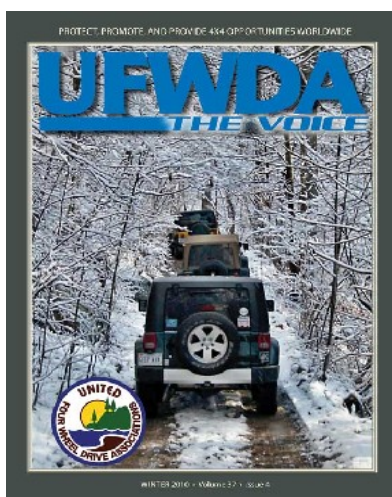
UFWDA eNews February 2011

A wave of legislative proposals has been unleashed on US four wheelers and in this edition the articles are headlined in red.

Doing nothing, will result in nothing to the benefit of 4x4 recreation. In the Middle East, people power has changed the political scene and shows what numbers can achieve. A flood of frustrated voters in already democratic countries can send shivers through politicians too. Here are links to both your [House Representatives](#) and [Senators](#).

The BFG 'Outstanding Trails' program is underway again with nominations being invited before 15 March. This is a great program that UFWDA are delighted to be associated with and we look forward to seeing your trail nominations.

Another issue of UFWDA 'Voice' is in preparation and here's a sneak peek at the cover...



Peter Vahry – editor - international vice-president

Headlines

- **Last Call...Secretarial Order #3310 – Wild Lands**
- **USFS Framework for Sustainable Recreation**
- **Capturing Our Past**
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Last Call...Secretarial Order #3310 – Wild Lands

The new year is a great time to establish a relationship with new public officials and a great time to touch base with those who already know you well. By February 22, 2011, the BLM is directed by the Secretarial Order to finalize policy guidance clarifying how public lands with wilderness characteristics are to be inventoried, described, and managed. By June 22, 2011, the BLM must report to the Secretary the BLM's plan for considering wilderness characteristics in existing land use plans. **Time is very short. Please write, call, and visit your Congressman now about Secretarial Order #3310.**

A form letter is provided on the UFWDA forum www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=3321.0 to aid you in your conversations with your Congressman and as a follow-up. Personalize the letter and mail it please.

Under that forum topic there is a whole array of documents on the subject, that Carla Boucher has assembled to assist your understanding. There is also a list of House Natural Resources Committee members who need to be contacted.

USFS Framework for Sustainable Recreation

On Friday, January 28, the Forest Service's "Framework for Sustainable Recreation" was released to all USFS employees, and now we would like to share it with you. As captured in the slogan "Renewing Body and Spirit, Inspiring Passion for the Land", the Framework recognizes that many people relate to national forests and grasslands based on their recreation experiences. It focuses on using recreation to help provide critical benefits for communities, such as healthy lifestyle and employment opportunities, while conserving the landscape for the future. Further, the connection with nature many feel from their recreation experiences can be cultivated into citizen stewardship across the entire agency mission.

In the accompanying video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYApUY8ZooE> Chief Tom Tidwell introduces the Framework and encourages all of us to become engaged in conversations about the opportunities it creates. The Framework has six guiding principles and ten focus areas for improving the effectiveness and integration of our program, and enhancing our relationships with communities. Utilizing community engagement and sustainable recreation is not a new job; rather it is a new approach to accomplishing our work in a more collaborative way.

I believe the Framework provides us a solid foundation for the integration of recreation and heritage programs with the coming proposed Planning Rule as well as the America's Great Outdoors initiative. The Framework can be accessed on the Forest Service website:
http://prdp2fs.ess.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5270170.pdf

I hope you'll take the time to learn more about the Framework, and explore ways we can work together to put it into action.

Thank you,
James S. Bedwell
Director, Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources
USDA Forest Service
Voice: 202-205-1240 FAX: 202-205-1145

UFWDA are looking forward to working with the Forest Service under the "Framework for Sustainable Recreation" but are only cautiously optimistic about the sincerity with which the agency delivers their framework. Many areas around the country, including Tellico, fit the model of sustainable recreation, yet the agency continues to shut down these recreation opportunities in the face of overflowing user support in the form of partnerships, volunteer work force, and

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money. At UFWDA we place stock in what the agency does, not what the agency claims it will do in the future."

Capturing Our Past

I need your help in capturing our past in preparation for this year's AGM to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas June 9 – 10, 2011. I would like to put together a slide show in commemoration of our 35th Anniversary.

Please provide me with pictures, newsletters, stories, etc of our associations past. I would like anything and everything that I can collect to paint a picture of all those who have helped us through the years. Your pictures, your memories, your mementos will provide an opportunity to share our history with those from the past, present and future Members.

Please send pictures, newsletters, scanned items to bdufwda@gmail.org.

Please send tangible items to the Associations address:

UFWDA

P.O. Box 316

Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473

If you want your items back, please include a note and I will be more than happy to return anything I receive. If you do not need the item back, we will add it to the UFWDA intellectual property for safe keeping and preservation.

I hope to be able to create a Historical Slide Show using Your Submissions. We will make the slide show available for distribution after reviewing the creation at this year's AGM to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas June 9 – 10, 2011.

Please submit your items to help make this slide show something to be cherished



Bob DeVore

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US Forest Service proposed planning rule

The Forest Service is proud to announce the proposed planning rule for the 193-million acre National Forest System. This proposed rule has been developed through an open and transparent process through contributions from a broad and diverse mix of the American people. I want to thank all of you that are participating with us to develop the new planning rule.

The proposed planning rule was released in the *Federal Register* on February 14, 2011, kicking off a **90 day public comment period**. A copy of the proposed rule is now available online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule>. I encourage you to take a look and let us know how we can make it better. Information on how to submit comments is available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule/HowToComment>.

We are committed to keeping the development of planning rule open, transparent and participatory. Please take advantage of the following opportunities to stay engaged over the coming months:

Attend one of our public forums to learn more about the proposed rule. Information on these public meetings is available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule/forums>

Submit written comments at <http://www.govcomments.com/>. Comments are due by May 16, 2011.

Check back often to the planning rule website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule> for the latest information.

Discuss the proposed rule informally with other interested members of the public on the Planning Rule blog at <http://planningrule.blogs.usda.gov/>.

Sign up for the planning rule listserv to keep informed on progress and opportunities to participate along the way. If you haven't already, please sign up at <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/pr-listserv-subscribe.html>.

You can also follow the Forest Service on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/forestsservice>.

Thank you again for your interest in the National Forests and Grasslands and your help with the rule development process. Your continued participation is important to our success.

Close the Books on 2010

As we move forward into a new year and close the books on 2010, I wish to extend a sincere Thank You to all involved with United Four Wheel Drive Associations (UFWDA). 2010 saw many changes and with everything that is happening at present, 2011 is bound to be a bountiful year of change as well. I commit on behalf of your BoD (board of directors) that we will attempt to maximize upon every penny you provide UFWDA to operate on your behalf, in defense of the daunting task of Land Use Access. We finished 2010 in a much healthier financial position than we did in 2009. Again the Thanks go to each and every one of you for your Membership, your Donation and your prayers for us to be able to fulfill the Mission of UFWDA.

The UFWDA BoD has held two Delegate Conference calls since our AGM in 2010. During the conference calls we updated the Delegates, shared the UFWDA financial picture and provided our to-do list for the future. Our next Delegate Conference Call will be in March and I encourage you to participate and see for yourself what UFWDA is doing on your behalf. Keep an eye on



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eNews for the date, or e-mail me at treasurer@ufwda.org to be notified of an opportunity to hear from each of your BoD members.

Happy Trails until next time.

Bob (aka jarhead)

Treasurer - United Four Wheel Drive Associations

Calling All Nominations for BFGoodrich's Outstanding Trails Program

BFGoodrich Tires, in partnership with United Four Wheel Drive Associations and Tread Lightly! is calling for nominations for their **2011 Outstanding Trails** campaign. Since its inception in 2005, the Outstanding Trails program has highlighted the best off-road trails in North America each year and applauds the clubs that help promote the responsible use and preservation of these trails.

In 2011, BFGoodrich is looking for exceptional trails and clubs to take part in the Outstanding Trails program. Please send your club/trail nomination to trails@ufwda.org by **March 15, 2011**. Please include in your nomination the following:

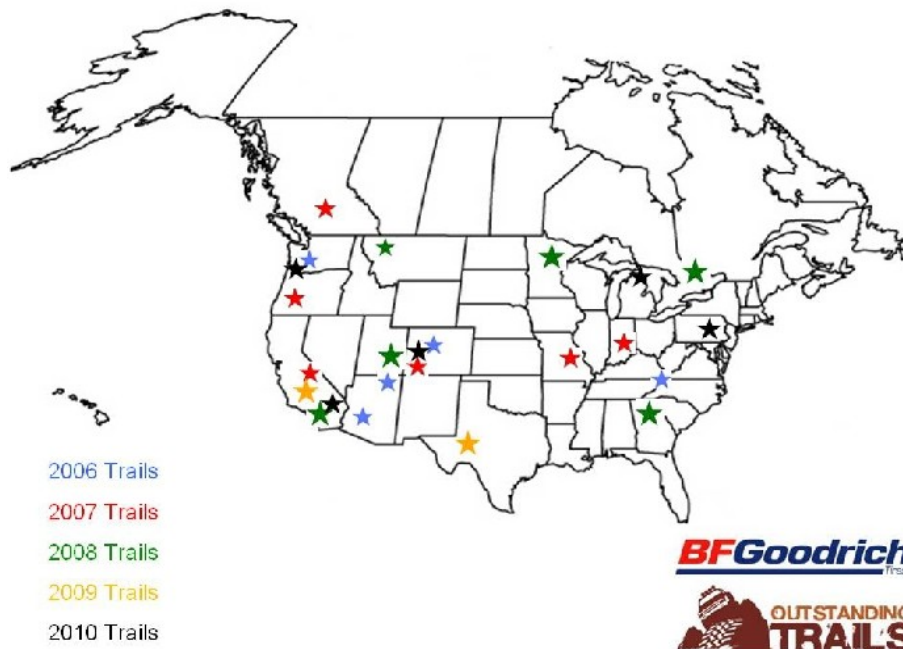
Name of your club and contact person details

Trail nomination information, such as - Location of the trail and whether it's a part of a larger trail system?

Why the trail should be chosen as one of the best in the USA?

What work needs to be done on the trail to keep it open and how will the BFGoodrich Outstanding Trails grant assist?

We look forward to your nominations. It's going to be a great year for Outstanding Trails - with a new twist in 2011, where a trail will be chosen by consumer vote.



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UFWDA 2011 AGM and 35th ANNIVERSARY

UFWDA planning is well underway and you too should start yours. The place is Little Rock AK and the dates are 8 to 10 June. We've set up a 'Meetings' section on the UFWDA forum where updates will be available www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=3319.0

There will be the option of online registration and payment of various components but all accommodation will need to be organized by you directly with....

Hilton Little Rock Metro Center

925 South University Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

Tel: 1-501-664-5020 Fax: 1-501-614-3803

http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/LITHIH-Hilton-Little-Rock-MedicalCenter-Arkansas/index.do

A benefit of Little Rock is the airline access, which UFWDA hopes will encourage delegates to attend for the few days. For those who drive, there's four wheeling after the meeting at Superlift 4WD Park. www.orvpark.com/

Recreational Trails Program Threatened

American Trails www.americantrails.org/support.html and other nationwide organizations, including UFWDA, are urging key members of Congress and Administration officials to recognize the importance of funding for trails and related facilities.

Perhaps the most important debates right now in the U. S. Congress are how to pay for the federal programs, what to do about the federal deficit, and at the same time how to encourage more job creation. This is going to have a big impact on those of us who care about trails, active transportation, and creating healthier communities.

In particular, federal transportation funding is overdue for the next authorizing bill. Federal transportation programs and agencies are funded through March 4, 2011. With the changes brought by last November's elections, there will definitely be a Republican redraft of the House version of the federal budget, which will almost certainly reduce spending from the previous (Democratic-written) draft.

We're not just looking at a 10 percent "haircut"— we're facing the possible elimination of all federal programs that fund bicycling, walking, and trails. This includes Transportation Enhancements, the Recreational Trails Program, and Safe Routes to School— all of these programs may simply vanish in the next Surface Transportation authorizing bill. As the current continuing resolution expires March 4, Congress must decide how to fund transportation programs until the fiscal year ends September 30, 2011.

In addition, trail funding included in federal land-managing agency budgets is also at risk.

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Congressman Mica has issued a list of listening sessions starting on 14 February. The details are here: <http://transportation.house.gov/news/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1060>

There is strength in numbers and we need to present a unified voice for trails, to tell the story of them, to present their endless benefits, and to make the case for funding them. Join us in contacting your Senators and Representatives to let them know why these programs are vital to your local efforts.

You can reach your House Representative by visiting this website:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

You can reach your Senators, by visiting this website:

www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

UFWDA Position on Recreation Fee Areas

One of the issues pertaining to 4x4 use in February is reauthorization of the current fee program for recreation areas. The current authorization will expire in a few years and many recreation groups, motorized and non-motorized, are working to develop a position and recommendations for amendment to the current federal law governing recreation fee areas – FLREA.

When FLREA was enacted in 2004, UFWDA worked on the issue to ensure that the needs of our members were represented. I did a poll to determine the opinions of our members on paying fees to recreate. The polls were responded to evenly by both UFWDA members and non-members. The people who opposed fees usually did not use such areas. The people who used fee areas to recreate resoundingly approved of the fee, provided the fees were retained in the area to sustain the recreation and provide improvements when possible.

UFWDA position is to support the continuation of the fee program, support the continued utilization of Recreation Resource Advisory Councils (RRACs) to make spending and budget decisions for fee areas, but eliminate the current FLREA requirement that imposes minimal “amenities” *BEFORE* an area can be managed as a fee area. These basic amenities include picnic tables, trash receptacles and toilets. UFWDA does not oppose the addition of amenities to fee areas. However, as written, the current FLREA law requires agency expenditure of these amenities *FIRST*, before an area can become a fee collection site.

As you know, most areas under new consideration for the imposition of fees are affected largely or wholly, on a lack of funding at the current level without additional recreation fees. The requirement to add amenities first, will predictably exclude many areas whose future existence relies upon recreation fees, at a time when expenditures for “amenities” is unlikely, given the current budget conditions of the BLM and USFS.

Carla Boucher

A copy of the recreation group's letter, signed by UFWDA, can be found on the UFWDA forum at www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=3346.0

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