



January 2020 eNews

Happy New Year

A year when United Four Wheel Drive Associations is undergoing a general upgrade to improve our connections to our members.

Possibly the most important component is to activate a new database that will allow better processing of memberships and renewals etc. That function is currently being worked on and will be integrated with the website shortly.

UFWDA membership is probably the most economic insurance for continuing four wheeling access to public lands and the annual fee remains at \$20 or just \$15 if you join through your club or organization. The annual fee is that low because UFWDA is volunteer managed and if you've an interest in helping administer United, we'd be pleased to hear from you.

Your input of topical material for each eNews is still vital, so please keep UFWDA and our readers informed by emailing **before the 10th** of each month. **If your organization has a website with interesting stories etc. then send a link to the [Editor](#)**

Peter Vahry; editor

Nominations open for BLM Resource Advisory Councils (RAC)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently announced in the Federal Register that it seeks nominations to fill 27 of the BLM's statewide and regional Resource Advisory Councils (RAC) located in the West that have vacant positions and/or members whose terms are scheduled to expire. These RACs are designed to provide advice and recommendations to the BLM on land use planning and management of the National System of Public Lands within their geographic areas.

Nominations are due by February 24, 2020.

For more information, or to see if there is an opening in your area, click [here](#).

These positions are a great opportunity for OHV enthusiasts and others to get involved

and have a voice in BLM planning efforts.

The RACs include the following three membership categories:

Category One—Holders of Federal grazing permits or leases within the area for which the RAC is organized; represent interests associated with transportation or rights-of-way; represent developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities, including, for example, commercial/charter or recreational fishing; represent the commercial timber industry; or represent energy and mineral development.

Category Two—Representatives of nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations; dispersed recreational activities, including, for example, hunting and shooting sports; archaeological and historical interests; or nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups.

Category Three—Hold State, county, or local elected office; are employed by a State agency responsible for the management of natural resources, land, or water, including, for example, State/local fire associations; represent Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the RAC is organized; are employed as academicians in natural resource management or the natural sciences; or represent the affected public at large, including, for example, sportsmen and sportswomen communities.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominees must be residents of the State in which the RAC has jurisdiction. The BLM will evaluate nominees based on their education, training, experience, and knowledge of the geographic area of the RAC. Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to collaborative resource decision-making. For more information about RACs click [here](#).

Notice courtesy of NOHVCC

Economic Impact of Off-Highway Recreation in the State of Arizona

In 2016–2017, Arizona State University conducted a study to measure the economic impact of OHV recreation, by retained and out of state visitors, on the State of Arizona. A retained visitor is defined as a local visitor who would have traveled outside the State of Arizona if OHV trails had been absent. The study makes use of web-based questionnaires in addition to onsite surveys at geographically dispersed popular trail locations.

OHV visitors incur expenditures on a variety of ancillary (recreation and tourism products and services) and vehicle-related items. Total spending in OHV recreation by local and out of state visitors:

Impact of Visitor Spending

\$1.86 BILLION IN TOTAL DIRECT SPENDING:

- \$793.41 million is annual contribution by ancillary sectors
- \$1.07 billion approximately are generated by annual OHV (vehicle-related) expenses
- \$65.51 million out-of-state contribution by ancillary sector expenditures
- \$177.61 million on vehicle operating expenses by out-of-state visitors
- \$727.90 million on ancillary sectors by local retained visitors • \$888.68 million on vehicle-related expenses by local retained visitors

[Read the report](#)

A call to action for all outdoorsmen across America

The future of outdoor recreation lies in your hands

We are rapidly losing recreational opportunities across the west. I am not asking for your money. Nor am I asking you to attend any meetings or submit comments on a terrible land-use issue. We are reaching out to you in an effort to gain support and send a message to our Congressmen. It's time to take this to Washington for a real solution.

[Please keep reading...](#)

Another update on the website

Work continues on the rebuilding of the UFWDA website and the initial edition is now operational although still lacking some detail and functions.

It has a [new domain name](#) but will be linked to both ufwda.org and ufwda.com in about a month's time.



Have you ever had a look at the UFWDA Environmental Affairs Director's Facebook page?

<https://www.facebook.com/UFWDA/>

This site provides links to USDA Forest Service land use notices.

It's Time! Register Now for Bantam 2020!

We want to celebrate 10 Years of Bantam with you!
Register Now & Join Us June 12-14, 2020!

2020 marks the 10th annual Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival! We're celebrating a decade of Bantam with our [10th Anniversary Jeep® Parade](#), a [new stock scenic trail ride](#), a [Jeep Scrambler Raffle](#) & more!

Join us June 12-14, 2020 where you'll find off-road trails and obstacles for beginners to those looking for a challenge. Shop for parts and accessories from the top names in the industry. Have fun in your Jeep while you participate in more than a dozen fun activities. Learn about the Jeep's creation right here in Butler, PA in our History Exhibit.

Don't forget that tickets for the 10th Anniversary Jeep Scrambler Raffle and BF Goodrich Tire Raffle as well as our 10th Anniversary Commemorative Gifts and Festival shirts can also be ordered during your participant or volunteer registration (they are in the area below Jeep activity selection) or in the online store (click the red box below).

Ready to celebrate with us? Click the button below to register now!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

California Four Wheel Drive Association announces changes

Natural Resources Consultant contracts affected by new legislation

The board of directors has elected to not accept revised contracts with John Stewart and Jeff Blewett for continued Natural Resources Consultant services due to concerns related to the implementation of California Assembly Bill 5, which affects independent contractors. The board will be issuing new requests for proposed contracts in the next In Gear. When proposed contracts are received they will be reviewed by legal counsel for compliance with California law.

The board would like to take this opportunity to seek input from the delegates on the service the association receives from the contracted NRCs. Please discuss this with your club and have your delegates prepared to discuss at Convention. We will be without the services of the NRCs until such time as the board can get through the process of reviewing new contracts and anticipate re-contracting for NRC services July 1. The board would like to thank John Stewart and Jeff Blewett for their years of service to the association and wish them luck in their future endeavors.

Help us with the creation of the next UFWDA Voice

To create an edition of the UFWDA Voice online magazine requires sourcing a variety of content and with a great geographic area to cover, we have to rely on willing contributors to fill those pages.

As 'Editor' it would be great to be able to spend time attending events and club activities, but sadly the system just can't accomodate the time and travel costs!

That then means we need to ask you, our readers and members, to send us some of your photos of your four wheeling and maybe even a few words describing the activity?

It is time again to create another edition of the UFWDA Voice, so please make that effort and send in those articles about 4x4 adventures. I'm setting [a deadline of 30 January 2020](#)

Links to Facebook, or other locations where you've posted pictures etc are welcomed too.

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The deadline for contributions to UFWDA eNews, is the 10th of each month.

Please send materials to **editor@ufwda.com**

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