CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

Volume 22 Issue 5 December 2009



OFF-ROADERS IN ACTION

Environmental Litigation Gravy Train

by Karen Budd-Falen

Consider these facts:

- Between 2000 and 2009, Western Watersheds Project (WWP) filed at least 91 lawsuits in the federal district courts and at least 31 appeals in the federal appellate courts;
- Between 2000 and 2009, Forest Guardians (now known as WildEarth Guardians) filed at least 180 lawsuits in the federal district courts and at least 61 appeals in the federal appellate courts;
- Between 2000 and 2009, Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) filed at least 409 lawsuits in the federal district courts and at least 165 appeals in the federal appellate courts.
- In addition, over the last 15 years, the Wilderness Society has filed 149 federal court lawsuits, the Idaho Conservation League has filed 69 federal court lawsuits, the Oregon Natural Desert Association has filed 58 lawsuits, the Southern Utah Wilderness Association has filed 88 lawsuits and the National Wildlife Federation has filed 427 lawsuits.
- In total, the 8 environmental groups listed above have filed at least 1596 federal court cases against the federal government.
- Every one of the groups listed above are tax exempt, non-profit organizations. Every one of those groups listed above receives attorney fees for suing the federal government from the federal government.
- These statistics do not include cases filed in the administrative courts, such as BLM administrative permit appeals before the Office of Hearings and Appeals or Forest Service administrative appeals. These statistics only include federal district court cases.

On the other end, these same environmental groups are receiving billions of federal tax payer dollars in attorney fees for settling or "winning" cases against the federal government. Accurate statistics have not been kept by the Justice Department or the federal agencies, providing no accounting for the total amount of tax dollars paid, however, we were able

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Northern Jamboree Another Success

The Northern Jamboree was held at Frank Raines OHV park just outside the superb of Patterson, CA on October 24-25th. Located sixteen miles west of Interstate 5, the lush, green and very clean OHV Park is operated by the County of Stanislaus.

A variety of clubs and teams manned the events Saturday and included the Escarabajo Buggy Club, Modesto Ridge Runners and East Bay Hi-Tailers. Around 4:30, the camp was open for Trick or Treats – and many people decorated their trailers and motor homes for the occasion.

In our next issue we should have a full report. The Northern Jamboree was a wonderful success and everyone is looking forward to next year. Thanks to all that participated.



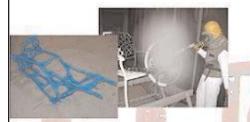
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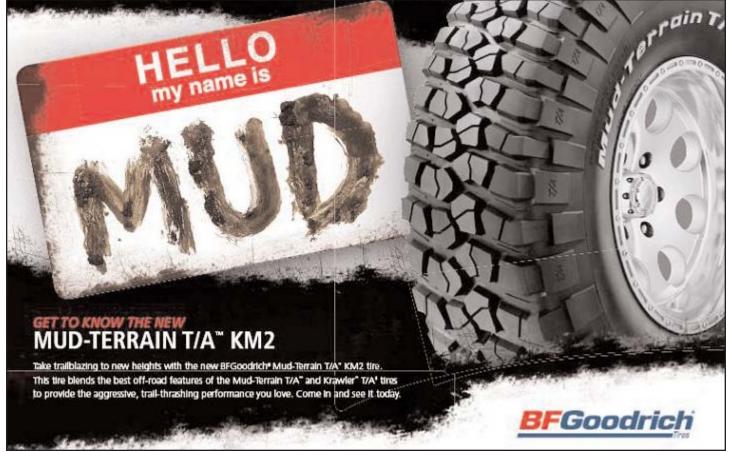


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WHAT IS CORVA?

The California Off Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) is a varied group of outdoor recreationalists who are extremely active in promoting the positive aspects of vehicular access on public lands and protecting that right.

The group is composed of the owners of "Green Sticker" vehicles such as ATV's, motorcycles, 3-wheelers, trail bikes, and dune buggies, as well as "street legal" 4x4 vehicles, dual sport motorcycles, baja and desert racers.

The main purpose of CORVA is to have fun! We also work with the land managers for responsible off-highway vehicular access and recreation opportunities. Secondarily, we educate our membership on the constantly changing rules and regulations and promote conservation, clean-up and trail maintenance projects.

We participate in lobbying activities in both Sacramento and Washington DC. We work closely with the State Department of Parks and Recreation providing input to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) program from the users' standpoint. We provide a valuable resource to land managers in the form of dedicated OHV enthusiasts who believe in using our public lands responsibly.

We are active at all levels of the land management public process with both the BLM and USFS. We do this by commenting on many environmental documents on issues that affect us.

We coordinate with other multiple use organizations such as snowmobiles to horse enthusiasts to protect multiple use rights that we both share. Only together can we fight the extremists. We are,

"Dedicated to protecting our lands for the people, not from the people."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Woods

Time to Give Thanks



It has been a long year for us off-roaders with all of the issues we faced and with most not resolved. Meeting after meeting, I hope to come back with news that will give us all renewed hope. While there has been some progress, I can't say it has been all that good. Senator Feinstein's office team has kept us involved it the California Desert Monument and Recreation Act. However, we will not be happy with the loss of more OHV land that is sure to come from the legislation. Also, we have made some positive influence in the Northern Forests Route Designation. The CORVA Comments Project is leading the way by educating clubs and individuals how to write effective comments for their specific recreation areas. For all of those who have attended these workshops, OHV meetings, volunteered for or attended OHV events and participated in clean-ups throughout California, the CORVA Board sends our thanks. You are why CORVA has been able to be influential in OHV policies. Your positive involvement furthers the positive image of OHV use, which goes a long way to help protect our sport.

Please remember your responsibility as a CORVA member to keep our camping areas clean and enforce good "Tread Lightly" manners. It will not be easy to ask your friend to stop burning pallets – but it's the right thing to do. It will not be easy to ask your buddy not to go for one last ride after he has had a few "brews" – but it's the right thing to do. Not only are we setting an example for our kids but we also are telling the rest of the world that we do care about our environment and doing the right thing. We must lead by example.

During the holiday season let's remember how fortunate we are to live in California with all the off road opportunities this great state has to offer. It takes very little for us to lose a trail and it is almost impossible to get that trail or OHV area back after it has been closed. Be proud that you are a member of an aggressive organization like CORVA and help yourselves by getting your friends to join as well. The more members we have the more power we have when we meet with politicians and agencies that make the rules about where we are allowed to go. We need all the help we can get to influence their votes and policies.

Membership is like voting. If you don't vote you have no reason to complain on the way things are going. Our Northern Director, Amy says, "if you're not a member, then you don't count." I think she's got it exactly right. Let's make 2010 the year we get all of OHV users to count! Spread the word:

"IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER YOU HAVE NO VOICE"

Have a Safe Holiday Season and Thank You for picking CORVA as your Voice!





15th Annual

Truckh<u>aven</u> Challenge

January 23-24, 2010



Near Salton City, Fun for the Whole Family!

NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED! PAY AT EVENT SITE!

All OHV's Welcome!*

POKER RUN- Saturday, January 23rd

Registration- Each Vehicle \$35 Kids (12 and under) on ATV's/MC- \$15

All Prices include one poker hand and 1 raffle ticket!

PRIZES: Poker Hands 1st- \$250 2nd- \$100 3rd- \$50

Games 1st- \$100 2nd- \$50 3rd- \$25

START TIME 8:00 AM! Start line closes at 11:00 AM.

SEE MAP TO EVENT AT WWW.corva.org

GREAT PRIZES DONATED BY THE OFF ROAD INDUSTRY



Set of 5 BFG KM2 Tires up to 37" Delivered to your home!!



Tube Rear Flares 3" or 6" Includes shipping!!



One set of Front and Rear Growler UTV tires!!



Receiver Rack Rubicon textured black

PLUS MANY MORE GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES

Course length approx, 20 miles

Alternate "difficult routes" for those willing to "GO FOR IT!" Checkpoints have "games of skill" for more family fun and prizes! Course closes 4:00 pm

BBQ dinner (see menu) to follow Poker Run Awards and great raffle prizes donated by off road industry!

Trailmasters Club BBQ Dinner Menu Hamburger \$3.00 Hamburger w/side of chili \$4.00 Hot Dog \$1.50 Hot Dog w/chili \$2.00 Bowl of chili \$1.00

DON'T MISS THE KIDS GAME ON SUNDAY!

Great fun for the kids before heading home.

REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT!

4x4's, Baja's & buggies- Metal roof or Roll bar ATV's/MC's- Helmet, spark arrestor

ATV's must have whips/flags! SUGGESTED ITEMS:

First Aid Kit, Tow Strap, Spare Tire, Fire Extinguisher

Registration desk will open early Friday afternoon (January 22nd) at the event

Camping for the event is located in an easily accessible dirt area adjacent to a large dry wash. Plenty of room for motorhomes and trailers. This is dry desert camping, so no hook-ups. We will however, have portable toilets brought in for those "tenting it".



All proceeds from this event to go to CORVA's Land Use Fund! Need more info?

Email: <u>steve.hewitt@corva.org</u> or call 951-927-8278
CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF GREAT OFF-ROADING!!!



CORVA Land Use Resources and Public Policy Report

By Bruce Whitcher CORVA VP of Land Resources and Public Policy

Clear Creek Draft Resource Management Plan Release Delayed Yet Again!

After many delays, the BLM revised management plan for Clear Creek will now be released in January. CORVA, Blue Ribbon Coalition, AMA District 36, and many other OHV organizations are gearing up strategy to address this controversial plan by hosting comment writing workshops.

The future of Clear Creek is seen by all as a precedent setting national issue that will have repercussions for the future of OHV recreation for years to come. Please stay tuned for developments. As always, CORVA will be there fighting for your rights.

December will be a key month for court decisions on OHV related legal actions filed by environmental groups. Here is a summary of pending actions:

WEMO lawsuit - Remedy pending as of November 2009

The Center for Biological Diversity and several other environmental organizations filed a lawsuit challenging the WEMO (West Mojave) and other desert BLM route designation plans in 2006. The judge hearing the case recently rendered a decision and will issue a remedy.

The ruling, by the Hon. Susan Illston of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California impacts off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes established within the last 30 years, as well as the designation of future routes.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs, including Community ORV Watch, The Alliance for Responsible Recreation, California Wilderness Coalition, The Wilderness Society, Friends of Juniper Flats, Western San Bernardino Landowners Association, California Native Plant Society, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and Desert Survivors argued that BLM's designation of OHV routes in the Western Mojave (WEMO) region of CDCA violates the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). These Acts assure that environmental considerations, such as impacts to wildlife, soils, watersheds, vegetation and cultural resources, must be carefully analyzed and minimized prior to BLM's designation of OHV routes.

The Court held that BLM did not adhere to its own regulations in analyzing and minimizing environmental impacts during its designation of 5,098 miles of OHV routes in the Western Mojave in 2006. The Court also held that OHV route designations developed since 1980 are in violation of the CDCA Plan, which limits route designations to those in existence in 1980, however there were no route inventories available at that time. The BLM made extensive efforts since 1980 to develop a comprehensive route inventory for planning purposes. The court acknowledged that the agency faced significant challenges in dealing with an inadequate inventory, but nevertheless ruled that the BLM has not adequately demonstrated how they had applied planning criteria.

The court held that the BLM's extensive environmental review failed to consider an adequate range of alternatives and was insufficient in its consideration of impacts to soil, cultural resources, certain plant and riparian resources, sensitive animal species, and air quality. This ruling means that the BLM must reconsider environmental impacts of OHVs on public lands in the Western Mojave region. The extent of the additional planning that will be required will be issued as a remedy in late October.

Flaws Found in Management Plans for National Forests in S. California–Forests to Respond in Dec.

LOS ANGELES—A federal court on Sept. 29 ordered the U.S. Forest Service to change management plans covering four national forests in Southern California (California Resources Agency v. USDA, N.D. Cal., No. C08-1185, 9/29/09).

Parties have 35 days from the date of the ruling to submit briefs "proposing appropriate forms of relief to remedy the deficiencies identified in the final environmental impact statement by this opinion," the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California said. The court heard cross-motions for summary judgment in two related cases on July 31 and granted each side partial victories, so that the management plans under scrutiny must be changed, though not as much as plaintiffs desired.

Continued on next page

The original lawsuit was filed in February 2008 and alleged violations of the National Forest Management Act and National Environmental Policy Act and sought a court order setting the plans aside (41 DER A-19, 3/3/08). A second lawsuit was filed by environmental groups in August 2008 (Center for Biological Diversity v. USDA, N.D. Cal., C08-3884, filed 8/14/08; 158 DER A-24, 8/15/08)

• Challenge Over Roadless Areas

At issue were the revised management plans for the Cleveland National Forest, Los Padres National Forest, Angeles National Forest, and San Bernardino National Forest. Records of decision on those plans were issued April 3, 2006. The California Resources Agency sought to preserve the "roadless characteristics" of the parks and accused the Forest Service of opening hundreds of thousands of acres of park land to road construction. The court found that the Forest Service's single, final environmental impact statement covering the four management plans violated the National Forest Management Act by failing to detail its review of state input on planning and land-use policies. The court cited 36 C.F.R. section 219.7(c). "This is more than a merely technical violation," the court said, "as it significantly inhibits the public's ability to understand the competing priorities of the Forest Service and the state."

• 'The Larger Picture.'

The final environmental impact statement violated the National Environmental Policy Act, the court said, in its failure to analyze the cumulative impact of increasing the number of roadless areas zoned for potential construction. "If the larger picture is not addressed at this level, it never will be, because site-specific plans do not have the scope appropriate to review the holistic impacts of land use zoning and wilderness designation decisions on that national forest unit as a whole," the court said. The court also found that the Forest Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act by applying the same monitoring and evaluation requirements for every alternative plan it reviewed under the final environmental impact statement. "The failure to analyze alternative regimes of monitoring and evaluation renders the public and decision makers unable to make a reasoned choice; it is an abuse of discretion and a violation of [the act]," the court wrote.

• Other Allegations Rejected

The NEPA violation was the only violation that the court found. The court rejected state arguments that the Forest Service's final environmental impact statement violated California's policy on roadless areas.

Judge Marilyn Patel said the state's communications with the Forest Service did not reveal a clear policy until the final environmental impact statement had been issued. Erin Tobin, an attorney with EarthJustice, told BNA the ruling is a step in the right direction. "We hope that, as a result of the decision, the Forest Service will reconsider its decision to recommend so few areas for permanent wilderness protection and that more of the region's wild areas will be protected in perpetuity," she said.

Lawsuit filed to stop OHV use on the Eldorado National Forest

SACRAMENTO, Calif.— The Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation, Center for Biological Diversity, and Forest Issues Group filed their complaint in federal court in Sacramento. Today's lawsuit follows up on a 2005 court ruling in which a federal judge ordered the Forest Service to analyze the impacts of off-road vehicles in the Eldorado National Forest. The conservation groups are challenging the Eldorado Forest supervisor's March 31, 2008 decision because it failed to undertake the required planning for a minimum motorized system, adopted illegally created routes, and authorized routes that will cause unacceptable impacts to streams and aquatic resources including the threatened California red-legged frog and its habitat.

The Eldorado National Forest includes habitat for the California red-legged frog, Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada mountain yellow-legged frog. This was carefully taken into account during the planning process. The resulting route designation plan closed over 80% of the available routes on the Forest, including any that were anywhere near special species habitat. CORVA, BRC, and many other OHV advocacy groups worked closely with the Forest and provided extensive commentary, yet received little in return for their efforts.

As part of the planning process, the lawsuit claims that the Forest Service should have first identified a minimum motorized transportation system for the forest as required by the agency's own regulations, however there is no legal requirement for the Forest Service to do this. Although the challenged decision prohibits cross-country off-road vehicle travel, the lawsuit claims the Forest did not go far enough in protecting resources.

At the policy level the Forest Service has recognized the potential effects of OHV use. Implementation of travel-management planning has closed up to 90% of available routes in many of California's National Forests. Horseback riders, mountain bikers, hunters, campers and other recreationists have been stunned by the loss of access to the traditional use of National Forests.

Continued on next page

Carnegie SVRA Lawsuit November Update

The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance filed suit in September claiming that when the creek is running, the water enters the park clear and leaves a chocolate brown. Vehicles sometimes plunge right through the creek. A consultant for the protestors reported finding high levels of metals such as aluminum, copper, iron and lead downstream - but not upstream - of the park.

Evidently, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch agreed. Last week, he ordered the park to get a permit or to prove at a December hearing why it should not have to comply with his order. A permit could include new requirements, such as improved erosion control and construction of larger ponds to capture sediment runoff, Jennings said. To be fair, the creek and its contaminants do not go far. Only in very wet years does the channel reach the degrading Delta. Often it is completely dry. No matter, Jennings said, the law is the law."We have no opinion on off-road activities," he said. "What we do say is they have a responsibility to control the adverse impacts."

Parks spokeswoman Sheryl Watson said a written response to the judge is due Oct. 27. "We do care about the water quality in this creek, and we have taken steps since we acquired the property to minimize sedimentation," she said.

We have received word that discussions continue, and that a settlement will be negotiated with the Regional Water Quality Control Board. In the meantime Carnegie has remained open.

October 29 - Forest Service Withdraws Five-year Permit for Off-road "Enduro" Races

GEORGETOWN, Calif.— The Eldorado National Forest has withdrawn its approval of a five-year special event permit for dirt bike "enduro" races in the Rock Creek Recreational Trails Area in response to an appeal by the Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation and the Center for Biological Diversity that challenged the permit for failing to provide adequate environmental review of impacts to soil, water and air quality, riparian habitats, and imperiled species, including the California redlegged frog and western pond turtle.

"Everyone has a right to enjoy our forests," said Karen Schambach, president of Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation. "But nobody has the right to destroy them. These races are a commercial boon to the off-road industry at the expense of California's clean water and healthy forests. An Enduro in this same location just a few weeks ago, at the peak of fire season, put not just the forest but our community at risk."

This is yet another example of how environmental activists use the court system to systematically attack legitimate OHV recreation. We hope this permit can be granted in the future and this wonderful event can continue.

Help Wanted: CORVA Treasurer

In May 2010, I will be stepping down as your CORVA Treasurer. As this position is not easily filled and requires some specific skills, I am beginning my search for a replacement now.

Requirements:

- Knowledge of Excel
- Knowledge of Quicken (or other computerized accounting software)
- Knowledge of Word (or other processing software)
- Experience in preparation of Financial Statements and Balance Sheets
- Experience in creation of Budgets
- Experience in preparation of tax returns (or familiar with corporate requirements)

As Treasurer, you will work directly and frequently with the Membership Chairperson, President and Vice President of Administration to reconcile all donations, membership and membership dues. You will be responsible for paying the association bills while keeping within the approved budgets. You will provide updates monthly and reconcile all accounting for monthly financial statements to be presented to the Board of Directors. You will sit on all special event committees and assist the coordination of incoming funds and the payment of all expenses. You will procure the associations insurance policies, assist with the filing of annual forms and provide the general ledger and financial statements to the association's CPA at year-end. You will keep detailed and organized records for review by the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer is voted in for a two-year term. Sorry, but there is no compensation for this position. For more information, you may email me directly at: roberta.woods@corva.org
Thanks, Roberta

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Env. Litigation Trail Cont'

to uncover these facts:

There are two major sources for attorney fees that can be paid to plaintiffs that "prevail" in litigation either by winning a case on the merits or by the Justice Department agreeing that the group "prevailed" in a settlement by achieving the purpose of the litigation. One source of funding is called the "Judgment Fund." The Judgment Fund is a Congressional line-item appropriation and is used for Endangered Species Act cases, Clean Water Act cases, and with other statutes that directly allow a plaintiff to recover attorney fees. There is no central data base for tracking the payment of these fees, thus neither the taxpayers, members of Congress nor the federal government knows the total amount of taxpayer dollars spent from the Judgment Fund on individual cases. The only information regarding these fees that is available is:

- In fiscal year 2003, the federal government made 10,595 individual payments from the Judgment Fund to federal court plaintiffs for a price tag of \$1,081,328,420.
 - In 2004, the federal government made 8,161 payments from the Judgment Fund for \$800,450,029.
 - In 2005, 7,794 payments were made from the Judgment Fund for a total of \$1,074,131,007.
 - In 2006, the federal government made 8,736 payments from the Judgment Fund for \$697,968,132.
 - In only the first half of 2007, the federal government made 6,595 payments from the Judgment Fund for \$1,062,387,142.
- In total, \$4,716,264,730.00 (that is billion with a "b") in total payments were paid in taxpayer dollars from the Judgment Fund from 2003 through July 2007 forattorney fees and costs in cases against the federal government.

The second major source of payments to "winning" litigants against the federal government is the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"). EAJA funds are taken from the "losing" federal agencies' budget. Thus, for example, the attorneys fees paid under EAJA come from the "losing" BLM office's budget, money that could be used for range monitoring, NEPA compliance, timber projects, archeology and cultural clearances and other agency programs. Within the federal government, there is no central data system or tracking of these payments from the agency's budgets. The only statistics we were able to compile are as follows:

- From 2003-2005 Region 1 of the Forest Service (Montana, North Dakota, northern Idaho) paid \$383,094 in EAJA fees.
- From 2003-2005, Region 2 of the Forest Service (Wyoming, South Dakota, Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma) paid \$97,750 in EAJA fees.
 - Between 2003 to 2005, Region 3 of the Forest Service (Arizona, New Mexico) paid \$261,289.85 in EAJA fees.
 - Between 2003 to 2005, Region 4 of the Forest Service (southern Idaho, Utah, Nevada) paid \$297,705 in EAJA fees.
 - Between 2003 to 2005, Region 5 (California) of the Forest Service paid \$357,023 in EAJA fees.
 - Between 2003 to 2005, Region 6 (Washington state, Oregon) of the Forest Service paid \$282,302 in EAJA fees.
- Out of the 44 total cases in which the Forest Service paid EAJA fees between 2003 and 2005, nine plaintiffs were NOT environmental groups and 35 payments went to environmental group plaintiffs.

We also tried to track the fees paid to environmental groups in certain federal courts. For example, in the Federal District Court for the District of Idaho, over the last 10 years, WWP received a total of \$999,190 in tax dollars for "reimbursement" for attorney fees and costs. Of the total cases filed by WWP in the Federal Court in Idaho, 19 were before Judge Winmill; eight of those cases resulted in a decision on the merits with WWP prevailing and with the total attorney fees being awarded of \$746,184; six of the cases were settled by the federal government with a total attorney fees still being awarded of \$118,000. WWP won one case but attorney fees were not paid. WWP lost six cases. There were two cases in which the documents indicated that the federal government agreed to pay attorney fees, but the payment amount was kept confidential from the public.

In my opinion, there are a lot of things wrong with this picture. The federal government is spending billions in tax payer dollars without any accounting of where the money is going or to whom it is going. There is no oversight in spending this money, especially the money that is coming out of agency budgets that should be funding on the ground programs to protect public lands, national forests, ranchers, recreationists, wildlife and other land uses.

Nonprofit, tax exempt groups are making billions of dollars in funding; the majority of which is not going into programs to protect people, wildlife, plants, or animals, but to fund more lawsuits. Ranchers and other citizens are forced to expend millions of their own money to intervene or participate in these lawsuits to protect their way of life when they have no chance of the same attorney fee recovery if they prevail. In fact, they are paying for both sides of the case—for their defense of their ranch and for the attorney fees for environmental groups receive to sue the federal government to get them off their land. There are also numerous cases where the federal government agrees to pay attorney fees, but the amount paid is kept from public view. This must be stopped, and the government must be held accountable for the money it spends.





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Advertising Rates

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Full Page (7 1/2" x 9 1/2")	\$480	\$870	\$1,560
1/2 Page (7 1/2" x 4 3/4")	\$270	\$480	\$860
1/3 Page (7 1/2" x 3 1/4")	\$195	\$375	\$625
1/4 Page (3 3/4" x 4 3/4")	\$165	\$300	\$540
Business Card (3 5/8" x 2")	\$90	\$162	\$264

For more information please contact us at: 800-42-CORVA Send an email to: advertising@corva.org

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Fall Off-Road Expo

By Steve Hewitt

The Off-Road Expo held at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds was another successful show for CORVA. We were able to sign up 32 new and renewing members.

If you are reading this article you know that your membership keeps you informed on important issues going on in the off-road world. So if you have any friends or family members that are not members of CORVA please have them join. We can't do this without our members.

I would like to thank the following volunteers for making this show a success: Jim Arbogast, Clayton Miller, Bob Hackler, and Jim Woods.

I am always looking for volunteers to help at the shows. If you would like to volunteer, simply send an e-mail to: steve.hewitt@corva.org



Take the CORVA Membership Challenge

By Clayton Miller

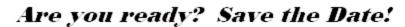
For less than the cost of a tank of gas, your annual membership dues support an organization that is "Dedicated to Protecting Public Lands for the People, Not from the People". This sounds like a simple concept, protecting public land for those that want to experience California's vast natural landscapes. However, as you read each month in Off-Roaders in Action, the motorized recreational community is under direct assault from those that believe that off-high-way and four-wheel drive vehicles are not compatible in any circumstances with the great out doors. 'Wilderness' and 'biological' groups expend tremendous resources to influence public policy and very effectively use the courts to lock up the land to 'protect' it for its sustained good.

This isn't to say that CORVA and its members do not care about the environment and its long term health. I would argue that it is a deep appreciation for the outdoors that motivates many off-roaders to spend the time and money to support their activities and lifestyle.

Without a loud voice from the off-road community, land use rollbacks and restrictions will continue unabated. Your membership dues support a volunteer-based organization that effectively engages in the public debate about how public lands should be managed now and in the future. It works closely with other organizations with similar missions to promote and insist on continued motorized access to public lands. It hires resource management professionals to develop technical comments for forests and desert management plan updates, and supports legal intervention when necessary.

This is where the CORVA membership challenge comes in. Everyone that loads a trailer or packs their vehicles to head out off-road for a day or weekend has a real interest in continued access of public lands. Ask your friends and family to join CORVA if they not members. Remind them to renew their memberships if they are. Challenge yourself to get at least one person you know to join! Give them a copy of the CORVA newsletter or suggest that they visit the CORVA website (www.corva.org) to see what CORVA is all about. An annual membership might even make a great holiday gift. Together we can make a difference. Hoping that someone else out there is trying to save this place, or that, is simply not enough.

There are tens of thousands of off-road vehicle owners in California that do not know how highly organized and strong the pressure is to close public lands from off-road vehicle use. Collectively we need to reach out to them and get as many people as possible informed about the issues affecting the areas they enjoy, and when necessary, what they can do to try and save it. CORVA provides this, and the more members we have the more we can do to try and protect our public lands for the people, not from the people.







1ST PLACE

FIVE BFGOODRICH TIRES

WHERE: HUNGRY VALLEY SVRA - GORMAN, CA

Overnight camping & day use fees apply & to be paid at entry gate.

(No additional registration fees.)

WHEN: SATURDAY MARCH 20, 2010

CORVA FAMILY FUN (POKER) RUN (5 cards per hand) ~ games at several checkpoints. WHAT:

> CORVA members: \$10.00 per hand

> Non-Members: \$20.00 per hand

BBO Tri-Tip Dinner: \$10.00 Event T-shirts \$10.00

Raffle & 50/50 raffle Tickets available

HOW: BEST 5-CARD HAND WINS:

1st Place Grand Prize - FIVE BF GOODRICH TIRES (your choice up to 37")

Other prizes to be announced

WHY: SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF CORVA!

Don't miss this "good time" fun event - great for the entire family!

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH IN THE OFF ROADER IN ACTION NEWSLETTER - THE VOICE OF CORVA!

MEMBER DONATION	<u>NS</u>			CLUB DONATIONS		
JOHN BEATY	•	620.00	MODESTO	RIDGE RUNNERS	\$150.00	
MATTHEW & MICHELLE CASSLE	\$	320.00	ON THE RO	CKS 4 WHEELERS	\$500.00	
EDWARD & KATHRYN DEVEREAUX RUSS & AMIE FISCHER		620.00 630.00	(In Memory	y of Ed McConnell)		
GARTH & ALMA GOODELL	\$	610.00	DES	ERT BILLS		
CHRIS MILLIGAN GENE RIGGS		610.00 620.00	MAR	S BONFIRE	\$100.00	
PETER SHORE JOE SKERL		\$10.00 \$30.00				
JOE SKEKL		550.00	: -	o us out and make a do se see the bottom of thi Thanks	:	
<u>v</u>	<u>VELCO</u>	ME NEW	MEMBE	RS		
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JOHN & DIANA ARMSTRONG DON & KAREN AUBE		D & SUSAN I MIKE KELL		TONY & LUCI R GLEN RIC		
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ROBERI HACKLER	JE	TTKE I TKE	SION	>>> TOUR NAIV	IE HEKE	
<u>WEL</u>	COME	BACK O	LD MEM	<u>IBERS</u>		
BRUCE BORING	_	DEVEREAU		LOUIS SCHILLING		
MIKE & COLLEEN COLGAN	(GARTH & AL GOODELL		PETER SHORE JOE SKERL		
BRIAN CONTER		MIKE JEWE		KEN SWENSON		
EDWARD & KATHRY	N S	SHAWN KEL	LY	RALPH WIGHT		
CORVA NEEDS YOUR HI	ELP!		I AM	DONATING TO:		
Here are the main projects that CO	DVA ic	Earast C	om monto	. Drojecte	.	
involved with at this time. Please of				s Projects on Process	\$ \$	
form out and mail with your donation	on to:		_	ar Creek Area	\$	
CORVA		Funding	the CA D	esert Legal Bills	\$	
	_	Funding	work at:		\$	
4346 E. Los Angeles Ave.		Funding work at: Other Area:			\$	
Simi Valley, CA 93063-29	3/	General	Fund (no	n specific)	\$	
Name				TOTAL	\$	
Address		DI	oo melee	chocke payable to	CODVA	
City				checks payable to		
State / Zip		Donatio	ns are not d	leductible as charitable o	contributions	

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PLEASE USE OUR SECURE WEB SITE FOR ALL CREDIT CARD AND PAY PAL TRANSACTIONS

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CORVA CALENDAR

January:

1/16 13th Annual Imperial Sand Dunes Cleanup, Saturday, January 16th www.uniteddesertgateway.org

1/23-24 15th Annual Truckhaven Challenge (see advertisement on pg 5) - Mark your calendar now!

March:

3/20&21 CORVA Family Fun Run, Hungry Valley SVRA (see advertisement on pg 12) Mark your calendar now!

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THE CORVA WEB SITE WWW.CORVA.ORG









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