

CORVA

CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD
VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

www.corva.org

OFF-ROADERS IN ACTION

Coalition Opposes Wild Lands Policy

On March 16, the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), All-Terrain Vehicle Association (ATVA), Trails Preservation Alliance (TPA), Utah Shared Access Alliance (USA-ALL), Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO), AMA-District 36, AMA-District 37 Off-Road Division and California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) sent a letter to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Bob Abbey opposing the new Wild Lands land-use designation policy. The letter expresses concerns about the definition of Wild Lands, designations, and implementation plans, as it relates to Secretarial Order 3310. Additionally, the letter seeks to clarify indications that Abbey believes there is no grass-roots opposition to the Wild Lands designation. This new order may affect off-highway vehicle (OHV) enthusiasts' ability to enjoy the public lands responsibly with their families and friends.



Regarding the recent interview with Abbey, the letter seeks to clarify indications that he believes there is no grass-roots opposition to the Wild Lands designation. In a Denver Post article entitled "Western Republicans decry Obama wilderness policy," it states: In an interview, Abbey said planning has already begun, and designation of the first wild lands could occur as soon as this summer in Idaho, Wyoming and Alaska. He denied that the plan is unpopular in the West, citing letters of support from recreation and conservation groups and the outdoor industry. The same article indicated Abbey believes people are hearing "rhetoric" from Western lawmakers, but no grass-roots opposition.

The AMA and ATVA strongly disagree with Abbey's assertion that there is no grass-roots opposition. To the contrary, there is considerable and growing opposition to Wild Lands from those who have responsibly recreated on public lands for decades.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar signed Secretarial Order 3310 creating a new land-use designation called Wild Lands that essentially allows officials in the BLM to manage public land as if it had received a "Wilderness" land-use designation from Congress, but without requiring congressional approval. The U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources held an oversight hearing on March 1 entitled "The Impact of the Administration's Wild Lands Order on Jobs and Economic Growth." Chairman Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) of the Committee on Natural Resources said, "The Wild Lands policy expressly circumvents Congress' statutory authority to establish Wilderness areas."

As you might know, a Wilderness designation is one of the strictest forms of public land management. Once Congress designates an area as Wilderness, nearly all forms of non-pedestrian recreation are illegal. CORVA supports appropriate Wilderness designations that meet the criteria established by Congress in 1964, but anti-access advocates have been abusing the legislative process to ban responsible OHV recreation on public land.

Federal lawmakers quickly called the Wild Lands policy a "land grab" and a blatant attempt to usurp congressional authority. We ask that our members and other OHV enthusiasts voice their opposition to the usurpation of congressional authority regarding public land designations to Abbey today.

Please go here to comment: <http://www.doi.gov/feedback.cfm>

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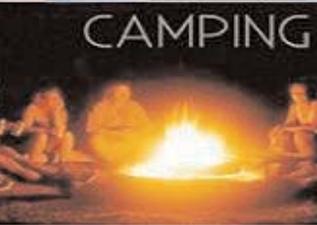
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**CORVA PRESENTS
RAFFLE MINI-BIKE TO
HAPPY WINNER!**

Simi Valley Honda Seadoo CanAm owner, Jim Woods recently presented the CORVA Honda CRF70F mini-bike to raffle winner, Mike Klaus of Lawndale, California. Mike and his family attended the CORVA Family Fun Run at the Hungry Valley SVRA on March 21, 2011. "My mom bought \$20 worth of tickets and I bought \$2.00 in tickets," Mike remarked, "I never thought I would win. I've never won anything before -this is such a nice surprise." The 2006 Honda CRF70F was donated for the CORVA raffle by Simi Valley Honda last year as a fund raiser for the CORVA Legal Defense Fund. Tickets were available for \$1.00 each and over \$1,000 in tickets were sold. "My wife, Roberta and I have always supported CORVA and we are delighted to have this opportunity to help raise money for the legal defense fund AND help a family win a nice mini-bike for their family," said Jim Woods, who is also the current CORVA President.

Mike Klaus has an 8 month old son who was cute and cuddly but slept throughout the delivery process. "I was so excited to pick up the bike for my little boy, that I forgot his diapers, his bottles - everything. I still can't get over winning this. Someday, he and I will ride together and he will always know about how CORVA helped keep the off-road areas open for his generation."



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. Secondly, 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

In response to a letter I received from the Jeeping Jeepers Jeep Club, a long time CORVA club, regarding CORVA Land Use activism, lobbyists and involvement throughout California, I would like to offer the following:

CORVA has gone through major changes in the past three years since I began my Presidency. We are no longer an organization represented by the strength and power of one dedicated person. During Ed Waldheim's years as president he blessed us with his continuous energy and the unlimited amount of time that he devoted as a CORVA volunteer. Unfortunately I cannot devote the same amount of time, but I accumulated a terrific team to work with me. CORVA now has many different volunteers throughout the State who are dedicated to specific areas of expertise. The CORVA Board of Directors attends a variety of meetings statewide and reports to the entire Board so we all can stay educated on the issues. This also allows us as a group to grow and nurture new Board involvement. Here are some areas in which CORVA is now involved:

- The Desert Advisory Committee (DAC) and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. We also currently have two applicants to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Special Recreational Permit (SRP) Subcommittee that will review and make changes to the event permit process which will standardize the process with accountability for BLM cost recovery event charges.
- Involvement with WEMO lawsuit including funding the attorney Dave Hubbard (*the Ecologic Partners' attorney*) who is representing the off-road community. The latest decision from Judge Ilsa was positive to OHV access stipulating no further land closures. See your monthly ORIA-Land Use report by Bruce Witcher, our Vice President of Land Use, for ongoing details.
- Intervener regarding the Stanislaus National Forest lawsuit, along with the California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC). The last legal briefs were very well written and we are waiting for the reply from the courts. (*At one time CORVA paid a monthly fee to belong to Ecologic Partners. Under the direction of Ed Waldheim, the CORVA Board voted to remove CORVA from this coalition until such time as CORVA's direct input was valued and accepted by the Ecologic committee.*)
- Partnership with the lobbyist group California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (COHA). This is a new avenue for CORVA as COHA represents hunters and fisherman that use OHV's to get to their point of recreation. COHA lobbyists have been very successful, creating the Outdoor Sportsmans Caucus, and are very well known in Sacramento. They present a positive OHV access influence in many ways we have never had before. COHA representative Mark Hennelly spoke to our attendees at the CLORV Lobby Day in Sacramento on April 11, 2011 on behalf of CORVA. (*In the past, CORVA paid a monthly fee for a professional OHV lobbyist in Sacramento. COHA provides similar coverage at a reduced cost.*)
- The CORVA Comments Project has produced professional comments written on all forest route plans and has sponsored classes that instruct a variety of organizations, clubs and individuals how to properly comment on the NEPA process. To this date we have trained over 300 people and recently hosted two Johnson Valley Comments Workshops - in Glendale and Yucca Valley - regarding the Twenty Nine Palms Training military expansion by the Marines. (*The CORVA Comments Project program is self-funded and unique to CORVA.*)
- CORVA Board and individual members have attended and testified on behalf of CORVA every month before the Desert Advisory Committee (DAC), Forest planning and trail management meetings, WEMO Hearings, Twenty Nine Palms Marine Training Base expansions, California Desert District meetings, Truckhaven and the Ocotillo Wells planning meetings and all the State Parks OHV Division Commission meetings.
- CORVA Board members met with Senator Feinstein's staff regarding the Desert Protection Bill SB2921 in 2010 and presented before Congress a position statement of non-support for the bill. This was controversial among many other OHV organizations that supported the bill. These organizations believe that by offering their support they will retain many OHV areas but a requirement of the management plan requires a new management procedure within three years with many of the OHV areas lost. The Bill was not voted on in the last session but has been re-introduced during the 2011 session, with minor changes, but fortunately is still stalled within committee. We will remain on top of its progress and report to you accordingly.

VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES:

- The Board of Directors standardized event procedures including proper transparent accounting of monies raised and acquisition of raffle items.
- Implemented cost effective measures for publishing of the ORIA newsletter in order to save CORVA members thousands of dollars per year.
- Have maintained the ORIA newsletter as the most informative and only monthly magazine reporting on land use issues plus CORVA and other organizations' events at this time.
- Changed the Bylaws providing for term limits and various membership changes.
- Kept within our budget every year and have increased our financial savings account which will allow us to financially support a lawsuit when needed. We only spend when needed and always shop for the best value so we can stretch our association's funds.

WHERE WE STILL NEED WORK:

- We still need more volunteers. CORVA has always been a volunteer driven organization. We need more members to serve on our Board or to serve as volunteers to attend meetings, events and shows.
- Clubs have been a challenge in the past few years. We need to identify all OHV clubs and organizations, regularly attend or monitor their club meetings, report on what CORVA is doing and educate the club members on the various issues that face the OHV access community. *(Please contact Clayton Miller if your club is interested in assisting in this area.)*
- E-membership: It has been a long time coming but our new web-site is almost ready to reveal. The process has taken way too long –again with most of the work donated by Board volunteers - but eventually will reflect a modern up-to-date site with much more to offer our members. This will also give us the ability to send professional and accurate Email-blasts and CORVA alerts more often.
- Our VP of Sales & Marketing, Steve Hewitt has called for a committee that will define our goals and implement a plan for the future of CORVA to involve more Associate and regular members. The recession has severely hurt our renewal retention and we recognize our own contributing factors. But while we could have done a better marketing job, we are facing the challenge head-on and developing a plan that will bring CORVA into a modern era of relevancy with specific goals and objectives. We welcome your input as a member of CORVA and hope that together we can keep growing our organization.

By the time you will be reading this report, our annual elections will have been held in Visalia, CA. If elected, I have one more term to run as your CORVA President and I will be honored to do so. However, CORVA is not about me, but rather it is about OHV access to our public land. Whether another President is elected to serve CORVA, or I am allowed to continue, we cannot lose track of this important fact.

Where are you? What can you do to help CORVA continue to work to keep off-road areas open? Can you submit an article about what is going on in your favorite OHV Recreation area or with your club? Can you represent OHV access at your County Board of Supervisor's meetings? Can you attend the annual Lobby Day event in Sacramento? Can you develop a personal relationship with your State representatives? Can you educate yourself with the real facts about the specific areas threatened to close? Can you attend a Comments Project workshop and really try to write effective comments that might ultimately save Johnson Valley? Can you put aside your own personal ego and put the needs of our future OHV generations as a priority? Friends, I am asking you again to join me. We must continue to work to keep our public land available for off-road opportunities.

I thank the CORVA Board for their hard work and dedication. It is a privilege to serve with you. Thank-you Jeeping Jeepers Jeep Club for sending in your letter. Many things have changed with CORVA over the past several years which has made things better and provided needed progress, even though some changes have come with difficulty. At times the challenges we face are overwhelming. Sometimes, even we can't see the forest for the trees. I just hope we can keep going to the forest! Let's all work together, now and in the future, for continued access to all our public land.

See you on the trail



CORVA Land Use Resources and Public Policy Report

By Bruce Whitcher

CORVA VP of Land Resources and Public Policy

[Transfer of Sequoia National Monument to the Park Service Proposed](#)

Sam Farr, congressman from the 17th District – Monterey County is sending a letter to President Obama urging the President to use his presidential power to transfer the Giant Sequoia National Monument to the National Park Service. This has been proposed in the past but has never come to fruition. The transfer would result in the closure of yet more routes in the already highly restrictive Giant Sequoia National Monument that would further reduce recreational access. If you live in Congressman Farr's District please contact him and let him know you oppose this transfer.

[EPA Seeks Clarification of Reach of Clean Water Act](#)

Will the EPA soon be in your back yard?

The latest development in the ongoing debate regarding federal jurisdiction over waters is the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) release of draft guidance addressing the scope of Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. (Draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act.) The CWA applies only to waters that are "waters of the United States" and the question of which waters Congress intended to come within that description has been the subject of much disagreement and several recent United States Supreme Court cases, including *Rapanos v. United States*, 547 U.S. 715 (2006). The draft guidance, jointly developed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), attempts to clarify the reach of CWA jurisdiction.

In *Rapanos*, the Supreme Court addressed CWA protections for wetlands adjacent to non-navigable tributaries, and issued five different opinions with no single one commanding a majority of the Court. The plurality opinion, authored by Justice Scalia, stated that "waters of the United States" extended beyond traditional navigable waters to include "relatively permanent, standing or flowing bodies of water." The plurality opinion also concluded that only wetlands with a "continuous surface connection" to other jurisdictional waters are considered "adjacent" and protected by the CWA. Justice Kennedy's concurring opinion concluded that "waters of the United States" included wetlands that had a significant nexus to traditional navigable waters, "if the wetlands, either alone or in combination with similarly situated lands in the region, significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of other covered waters more readily understood as 'navigable.'"

What's in? The guidance incorporates both the test articulated in the plurality opinion and the "significant nexus" test set forth in Justice Kennedy's concurring opinion. Waters coming within federal jurisdiction include traditionally navigable waters, interstate waters, wetlands adjacent to either traditional navigable waters or interstate waters, and non-navigable tributaries to traditional navigable waters that contain water at least seasonally and wetlands that directly abut such tributaries. Other waterbodies may come within CWA jurisdiction if a "fact-specific analysis determines they have a 'significant nexus' to a traditional navigable water or interstate water." (Draft Guidance at p. 5.) Examples of waters that might, based on their particular characteristics, be subject to federal regulation include tributaries to traditional navigable waters or interstate waters and wetlands adjacent to them.

What's out? The guidance also identifies categories of waters that are generally not within the scope of the Act, such as:

- Artificially irrigated areas that would revert to upland should irrigation cease
- Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating and/or diking dry land and used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing
- Artificial reflecting pools or swimming pools created by excavating and/or diking dry land
- Water-filled depressions created incidental to construction activity
- Groundwater drained through subsurface drainage systems
- Erosional features (gullies and rills), swales and ditches that are not tributaries or wetlands

[Travel Management Update](#)

Plumas National Forest - Appeals of the Travel Management decision were filed on December 27 by Sierra Access Coalition and CORVA. The decision calls for large scale closures of roads and trails. The counties have also filed appeals based on failure of the Forest to coordinate with local agencies. Pro access groups requested specific remedies. All appeals by both sides were denied as has occurred with all other Travel Management Plans. The Sierra Access Coalition, a well organized pro-access group, is now considering litigation.

Continued on next page

[New Wilderness Proposal for Los Padres National Forest](#)

CORVA recently became aware of a new wilderness proposal for parts of Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Kern Counties that would expand portions of the Dick Smith, Matija, San Rafael, Chumash, and Sespe wilderness areas. It would also establish two new Wild and Scenic Rivers, Sespe and Piru Creek. This will be a bill carried by Congressman Elton Gallegly of the 24th District in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

CORVA is analyzing the proposal for impacts to OHV recreation. We are being told that existing designated OHV routes will not be affected, however we are concerned that if Piru Creek is designated a WSR that this could result in the closure of the Piru Creek Trail, one of the great single track trails on the Mount Pinos Ranger District. We are also concerned that wilderness designation would eliminate any future possibility of opening new OHV routes in these areas.

Please contact CORVA if you live in Rep. Gallegly's district. We anticipate future meetings with the Congressman on this important issue.

[Desert Renewable Energy Projects](#)

Many of you have heard about the intense competition between various interests to reserve parts of the California desert for renewable energy development and protection of endangered species. Some of these areas are "limited use" BLM lands that have long been open for public access via motorized routes of travel. CORVA has been involved in discussion related to the future use of California's desert public lands and has spoken out to help keep our areas open.

CORVA representatives have attended stakeholder meetings held that will result in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). This plan will affect virtually the entire California Desert Conservation Area including all the areas traditionally used for OHV recreation. It is important to understand that the actual DRECP document will be written by the consultants under the oversight of four government agencies: CA Energy Commission, CA DF&G, BLM, & USF&WS. Recreation interests have been under represented making it critical that CORVA be at these meetings.

[Clear Creek Management Area Study Announced by OHV Division](#)

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. The preferred alternative identified by BLM was disappointing because it excluded motorcycles from the CCMA and allowed only limited access to the area based on claims of health hazard due to asbestos. The latest information we've received indicates that:

The release of the final RMP/EIS was originally proposed for September 2010, but in March 2010 the BLM extended the public comment period. In March 2010, the OHMVR Division commissioned an independent, OHV-specific risk assessment of NOA exposure within the Serpentine ACEC of the CCMA to determine if management and operational strategies could be employed at CCMA to mitigate NOA risk while still allowing OHV recreation at the CCMA.

The independent study, entitled, "Preliminary Analysis of the Asbestos Exposures Associated with Motorcycle Riding and Hiking in the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA), San Benito County, California" was prepared by scientists with expertise in asbestos related risk assessment from the International Environmental Research Foundation (IERF), the Department of Physics at Harvard University, and the Center for Applied Studies of the Environment at the City University of New York.

The IERF Study documents field work conducted to collect activity-based air samples, presents quantitative and analytical findings of materials found on air sample filters, and provides risk analyses based on these findings. The IERF study findings include:

- No individual air samples collected by IERF exceeded the allowable exposure level and, on average, all of the IERF samples were more than ten times below the OSHA exposure limit.
- At the time of sampling, CCMA ambient fiber concentrations measured at the low end of this range—0.00137 f/ml. Air samples collected during motorcycle trail riding at CCMA had a mean concentration at the upper end of this worldwide background range—0.013 f/ml.
- In its risk analyses, IERF assumes a typical motorcycle trail riding enthusiast would visit the CCMA five days per year and would ride for eight hours each of those days. With this assumption and the asbestos concentrations detected, IERF determined there is a lifetime risk of 0.18 asbestos-related cancer deaths per one million motorcycle trail riders.
- Using the same assumption, IERF determined the risk of asbestos-related cancer death from motorcycle trail riding at the CCMA is more than 6,500 times less than the risk of asbestos related cancer death in the general population of the US.

Public Lands: New Omnibus Bill - Senate hearing on 20 bills irks panel Republicans

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday will pick up where it left off last Congress with a hearing on 20 public lands bills to create new wilderness, national parks and monuments, wild and scenic rivers and other land acquisitions and modifications.

Democrats on the committee insist that none of the bills is controversial -- some of them passed the committee last Congress and all of them have had previous hearings. Five of the bills have Republican primary sponsors.

But Republicans on the committee say they are upset the Subcommittee on National Parks is holding a hearing on all 20 of the bills at once while refusing to allow nongovernment witnesses to take the stand.

The bills include proposals to designate 32,500 acres of wilderness in Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, transfer a privately managed New Mexico preserve to the National Park Service, create a new Pinnacles National Park in California, and add dozens of miles of wild and scenic rivers in Oregon.

Others would authorize land acquisitions and studies and allow low-impact energy projects in Alaska's Denali National Park.

Dillon said the committee's three new Democrats and five new Republicans deserve time to hear from stakeholders affected by the bills and ascertain whether any of the measures would cost taxpayers money. The Congressional Budget Office typically does not score bills until they have passed their respective committees.

"When you're creating new parkland or creating new wilderness or doing anything that's going to score, they're going to have a concern," Dillon said, adding that concerns have been raised for six of the bills: S. 140, S. 177, S. 247, S. 323, S. 564 and S. 849.

If passed by the committee, the bills will likely be included in a public lands omnibus package that could include dozens of other lands bills that the panel will consider in the next two weeks, Wicker said. No timeline has been set to assemble a package, however, he added.

Most observers agree an omnibus package is the most viable way to get small-scale lands bills passed amid a crowded Senate calendar that is often dominated by higher profile issues.

But the process in the past has drawn opposition from Republicans who say such packages must not be rushed through Congress like an omnibus proposal pushed last December by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) in the waning weeks of the 111th Congress.

"This omnibus hearing process is bad government and the Democrat senators should get the credit for what they are doing: Ramming new parks and wilderness down your throat," said Chuck Cushman, executive director of the American Land Rights Association, which opposes federal government land purchases.

Schedule: The hearing is Wednesday, May 11, at 2:30 p.m. in Dirksen 366.

Witnesses: Stephen Whitesell, associate director of park planning, facilities and lands, National Park Service; and Joel Holtrop, deputy chief, National Forest System.

HR 1581 Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011

U.S. Representative and Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) formally introduced H.R. 1581, the "Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011." 21 members of Congress, including National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) and Western Caucus Chairman Steve Pearce (R-NM) are listed as cosponsors.

Now that the bill has been introduced, it is time to reach out to your Representative again to urge them to sign on!

As you will recall, this very important draft bill would release all Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) that have been recommended or evaluated as not suitable for wilderness by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the U.S. Forest Service from restrictive management practices and direct that they be managed for multiple use, including recreation.

The BLM currently manages nearly 7 million acres of WSAs as de facto wilderness despite the fact that the BLM itself has already determined these areas as not suitable for wilderness designation by Congress. The situation with the Forest Service is even worse, as access is restricted to over 36 million acres of IRAs that have been deemed unsuitable for ultimate designation as wilderness. Current law and regulation dictates that these lands must be managed to protect wilderness characteristics. H.R. 1581 would release these areas from restrictive management and require the agencies to ensure increased access.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

by Steve Hewitt



Radio communication has been our passion for 20 plus years, and our love for the outdoors goes back even further. My wife and I (although we did not know each other at the time) both started riding dirt bikes back in the 60's. I started getting serious about "off-roading" or "wheeling" as we called it, right after high school, when I purchased and then rebuilt a 1970 Ford Bronco. Since that time we have owned a variety of off road vehicles, as well as had the great opportunity to explore much of the back country of California from Pismo Beach to the Mojave Trail and from Death Valley to Anza Borrego.

For over two decades we have provided radio communication solutions for a wide range of fields from Entertainment to Public Service. We have assembled radio communication systems for touring bands, arranged overseas rentals, as well as designed the communication plan for major multi-act events. As a founding member of our county's Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Communications Team, we assisted in the development and implementation of a stand alone VHF public safety radio system to support search operations.

We started Dirt Radios because we saw a need to improve communication between off-road vehicles. We have been experimenting for many years to find a solution to fill this communication gap. We have used CB's, FRS, GMRS and Ham radios and as we all know each has their drawbacks and challenges. The one system that we kept coming back to was commercial VHF with its clean signals and a range of 10 to 20 miles. This has been our choice of off road communications for the past five years.

In the future it is our hope to partner with organizations such as CORVA to assist them in acquiring blanket FCC licenses, so that these groups could offer legal radio use to their membership. We look forward to the day that we are standing at a base camp and overhear two off-roaders saying:

"What radio channel do you want to use?" "Let's use CORVA 2!"

At Dirt radios it is our commitment to provide quality two way radios and accessories at discounted prices, and we are sincere when we say:

"We do not sell anything that we would not buy ourselves!"

The Northern & Southern Club Awards

This year we had 5 clubs nominated for our annual club awards. Those in the northern part were the Merced Runabouts and the Modesto Ridge Runners. In the southern part we had; the Point Mugu 4x4 Club, Ventura County 4 Wheel Drive and the Ventura County Motorcycle Clubs. Many of these clubs sponsor events and the proceeds benefit a wide range of charities along with CORVA being one of them. Here is just a sample of their works.

Merced Runabouts - stepped up and delivered an outstanding meal for the huge number of attendees to our N. Jamboree.

Modesto Ridge Runners - they have adopted La Grange OHV Park and help with repairs.

Point Mugu 4x4 Club - adopted Lockwood Valley Trail, working with the Las Padres forest to repair the Lockwood Valley and Miller Jeep trails that were damaged and closed due to the Day fire of a few years ago.

Ventura County 4 Wheel Drive - they adopted three trails in the Lockwood Valley area (BC100, BC109 and BC110)

Ventura County Motorcycle Club - sponsor and arrange for the Bishop Dual Sport event and others, along with several trail cleanups and maintenance throughout the year.

CORVA would like to thank ALL clubs that help promote good stewardship on our OHV use lands.

Interested in joining a club? Look at our online club page for more information.

Forest Service Land Management Planning Proposed Rule

by Barbara Timberlake-USDA Forest Service

On May 2, 2011, Chief Thomas L. Tidwell sent this response to an organization requesting an extension of the deadline for comments on the National Forest System Land Management Planning Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (76 FR 8480, February 14, 2011).



“The Agency has gone to extraordinary lengths to facilitate the ability of the public to understand and comment on the proposed rule. Indeed, the Administration identified this rule as a flagship for open government for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Agency published a notice of intent to propose a new rule and prepare its accompanying environmental impact statement on December 18, 2009, and took public comment on that notice for 60 days. The proposed rule was informed by approximately 26,000 comments to the notice of intent, a science forum, regional and national roundtables held in 35 locations with over 3,000 people in attendance, national and regional tribal roundtables, 16 Tribal consultation meetings, Forest Service employee feedback, and over 300 comments posted to the planning rule blog. Throughout that process, the Agency shared a clear timeline with the public, including our intent to publish the final rule by the end of 2011.

The Agency considered all the public input, science, and agency expertise to develop the proposed rule, which was published in the Federal Register and included a 90-day comment period ending on May 16, 2011. We choose a 90-day comment period because of the importance of the proposed planning rule and the draft

environmental impact statement. This is 30 days more than the Agency’s customary comment period for rulemaking generally, is in keeping with past agency practice for proposed planning rules, and is 45 days more than the review and comment period for draft environmental impact statements required by National Environmental Policy Act regulations.

The Agency has reached well beyond its normal practices to provide the public with information to assist in the public comment phase of this rulemaking. During March and April 2011, after the proposed rule was published in the Federal Register, the Forest Service hosted 29 national and regional public forums to provide stakeholders with information about the proposed rule and respond to questions. The forums were attended by almost 1,350 members of the public and reached 74 locations across the country through video and teleconferencing. The National Forum was held within 3 weeks of the opening of the comment period and video of the forum and forum materials were posted on the planning rule website. The regional forums were also held early in the comment period. While the forums were designed to assist the public in understanding the proposed rule and foster informed comments, it is not necessary for any member of the public to attend a forum to develop and submit comments. In fact, we received written public comments on the proposed rule immediately after the comment period opened.

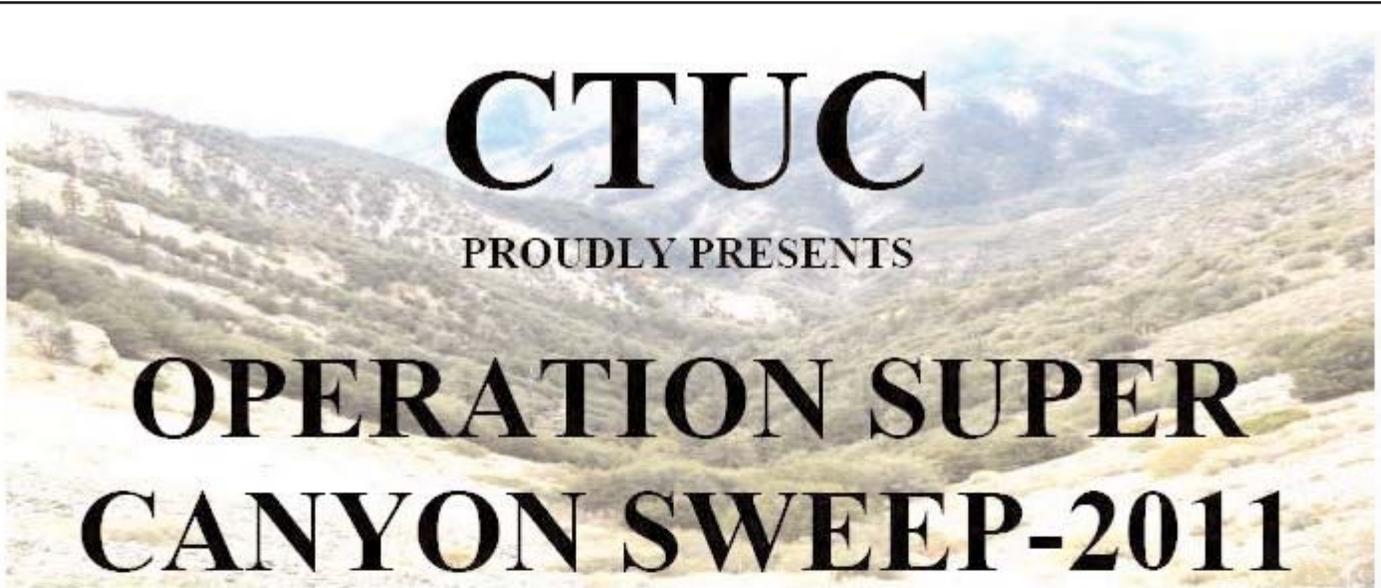
The Forest Service has ensured that our planning rule website contains background information on the proposed rule as well as summaries of the various collaboration and public involvement activities held during the preparation of the proposed rule.

In order to proactively facilitate commenting, the Forest Service provided multiple options for members of the public to submit comments, including on two websites, by hard copy mail, and by facsimile.

The Forest Service has strived to provide numerous opportunities for the public to learn about this rulemaking and has provided opportunities for participation in the process, which greatly exceed any applicable legal requirements. It has been a model for openness and transparency throughout this process.

Because of the process we have used, we have decided not to extend the 90-day comment period. Extra time has been provided for comments beyond the customary practices and an unprecedented amount of information and access to agency employees to assist the public in understanding that information was provided to the public via website and public meetings. This determination is not subject to appeal.”

So there you have it, your government working for you.



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Educational News

VP-Education, Ed Waldheim

[Get Involved in Your Sport](#)

The Friends of Jawbone 15th annual Moose Anderson days and the Friends of El Mirage 12th annual Mayday event have been held and the participation we received at both events is a testimony that off roaders really enjoy and want to help the environment while recreating.

We were pleased to see the CORVA booth at "Moose Anderson Days", mandded by Field Representative Wayne Ford, who brought along his PA system and started giving away free raffle tickets during breakfast. This was also our chance to see our new ramada where 225 volunteers had lunch.

It is evident that when we all collaborate toward a common goal, we can keep our lands open and clean and enjoy them for years to come.

We are looking for Ambassadors both at Jawbone and El Mirage to help maintain the areas by having contact will all users. If you are interested in this, please contact Karen Sanders, Secretary for both Jawbone and El Mirage, at: sndrskrnl@yahoo.com.



The new ramada at Jawbone Canyon



BLM Craig Beck thanking everyone for coming out

My underlying message is to get involved. Whether by contacting your elected officials, attending meetings, or convincing friends to join CORVA, you can make a difference.



[El Mirage May Day Clean Up](#)

by Jim Colln

It was a great day, good weather and good attendance for the annual event. This is one event that my wife Connie and I like to attend as we have an adopted Joshua tree with the Friends of El Mirage. But we were sad to see our tree had 4 large broken limbs when we arrived. As part of a cleanup team, we helped to remove trash, repair fences and "hula hoeing" out the invasive weeds from the adopted trees. Our crew cleaned up 6 tree locations also planting a couple of native plants at each. Others teams worked different areas and when I took a drive on the lake bed it was the cleanest I've ever seen! Great job everyone.

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KATIE HORAN	BETTY MUNSON
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WILLIAM KIERNAN	GRANT TUCKER
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WELCOME BACK OLD MEMBERS

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For more info please contact Barry at: BHWetherby@aol.com

August:

- 8-12/13 Annual High Desert Rally Modesto Ridge Runners Club

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