# CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

Volume 25 Issue 10 May 2013



# OFF-ROADERS IN ACTION

# **CORVA Comments on State Grants**

Ed Stovin, Assistant Southern Director - Grants

This year, CORVA took the opportunity to comment on grant applications to the OHMVR Division of State Parks. For those of you who don't know much about the grants, let me explain. Green and red sticker fees, as well as a small percentage of the state fuel tax goes to the Off-Highway Division of State Parks. The Division uses some of that money to operate the eight State Vehicular Recreation Areas. There is an awful lot of off-roading on other land, mostly BLM and National Forest land. Grant money can be used by agencies to operate, maintain, expand, improve, restore and patrol land used for motorized recreation. Also law enforcement, cities, counties, Native American Tribes and non-profits can apply for and receive grant money. This year, the State Legislature didn't appropriate the full amount owed the OHV division. While the amount should have been around \$22 million, instead they were given about \$10 million. Grants are put up for public comment in the month of March and I read and commented on 57 grant requests. While many grant requests are legitimate, a few are a little questionable. Since the people who allocate the grant money don't know every OHV area, they rely on users who comment to help decide who gets how much. I am going to share some of the less than favorable comments I submitted, but leave out who or what agency is the subject out of respect.



As off-roaders, we must use our knowledge of specific trails and areas to provide useful comments on grant applications.

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# No More Quiet Recreation

By Amy Granat, CORVA Managing Director

It is an insidious term, "Quiet Recreation". Upon first hearing it, one could imagine a pastoral setting, with birds chirping and the sound of wind rustling through the trees. Oftentimes I have enjoyed the sounds of nature while driving my 4WD through a forest, marveling at the myriad of noises one can hear while traveling down a road, believing myself engaging in my own special form of peace and solitude.

But "Quiet Recreation" has quite a different meaning when it comes to land use planning efforts by federal agencies. As little as 10 years ago, this terminology did not exist. There was an understanding among land managers that public land should be dedicated to a myriad of uses, and some of those uses involved machinery of different kinds. Whether a chainsaw, a 4WD vehicle or a dirt bike, it was understood that public land was working land. After all, mining and timber harvesting was part of the reason public land was codified; to make sure the benefits from public land would be available to all Americans.

"Quiet Recreation" has become common terminology among land use managers because anti-access groups have introduced the phenomena, and it has spread like wildfire, because it is hard to respond to this seemingly benign request.

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



# CORVA Annual Meeting Saturday May 18, 2013 -- Visalia, CA

Please join us for this year's CORVA Annual Meeting. The event will take place at the Lamp Liter Inn located at 3300 W Mineral King Ave (559-732-4511). Rooms are available if you would like to make a weekend out of it. A meet and greet will begin at 9:00 am and the General Meeting starts at 10:00 am. This year the elections will be for the following offices: President, Vice-President of Land Resources and Public Policy, Vice-President of Sales and Marketing, and the CORVA State Secretary. We will also have By-Law changes and guest speakers who will discuss land use issues that affect everyone in California. This is YOUR Organization, so please come out and voice your opinion, and VOTE!

The Following are the trophies to be given out at this year's meeting. Please submit your nominations to terry.work@corva.org. Award nominations due Saturday May 11.

# George Thomas Memorial Trophy For Off Roader of the Year:

This trophy is presented to the one individual whose contributions to the betterment of off-roading during the preceding year are worthy of this very special recognition. The recipient may be any individual who has provided special help to off-roading. The person does not have to be a member of CORVA or any affiliated organization. The nomination should be submitted with an explanation of the individual's accomplishments.

#### Looney Duners Trophy to Charity:

To be eligible for this award, the club must belong to CORVA. The award goes to the club that donates the most time and effort to charity. Money is not a factor.

#### Los Aventureros State Conservation Award:

This award is presented to the individual club, which during the year, has contributed the most towards conservation.

# American Buggy Association Political Activism Award:

This requires exceptional activity in dealing with elected officials and civil servants, through personal contact and letter writing. These persons' efforts should always increase the perception of CORVA - Please contact us for more details

Club Delegates need to check in before meeting, along a with a club roster and confirmation letter signed by current club president. Club Delegate form:

http://www.corva.org/skin1/forms/LETTER%20OF%20ASSIGNMENT%20-%20CLUB%20DELEGATE.pdf
Members and Proxy votes: all membership must be current and up to date to vote. CORVA form
located at: <a href="http://www.corva.org/skin1/forms/LETTER%20OF%20ASSIGNMENT%20-%20NON-CLUB%20DELEGATE.pdf">http://www.corva.org/skin1/forms/LETTER%20OF%20ASSIGNMENT%20-%20NON-CLUB%20DELEGATE.pdf</a>

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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, and snowmobiles.

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 and OSV 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 <u>for</u> the people, not <u>from</u> the people."

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**CORVA** Calendar

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Terry Work Vice President - Administration

Bruce Whitcher Vice President - Land Resources & Public Policy

Ed Waldheim Vice President - Education

Linda Wucherpfennig Vice President - Sales & Marketing

Mike Moore Treasurer
Katherine Kelsey Secretary

Diana Mead Northern Regional Director

Ken Clarke Assistant Northern Director - Legislation
----- Vacant ----- Assistant Northern Director - Grants

Byron Baker Assistant Northern Director - Clubs
Amy Granat Northern Regional Secretary

Clayton Miller Southern Regional Director

Helen Baker Assistant Southern Director - Legislation

Ed Stovin Assistant Southern Director - Grants
Wayne Ford Assistant Southern Director - Clubs

Vinnie Barbarino Southern Regional Secretary

# Amy Granat - Managing Director amy.granat@corva.org

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# By Jim Woods

# My Final President's Message

So when did you first volunteer? A school dance? A car wash fundraiser to support the football team? Or was it when you got frustrated no one would listen to a common sense request? My first time was in high school when we were not allowed to wear Levi blue-jeans or have long hair. (I never had long hair in school but could not understand the other rules that were just plain dumb.) It was my senior year. We petitioned the school board and the teachers and we won! I finally got to wear Levis to school. In the big picture it was not really important, but we made a plan, made our voices heard and made a difference. This taught me at an early age that I could make a difference if I just got involved.

I have "raised my hand" many times over the past years and have always been involved with one cause or another. But CORVA has been my biggest challenge and subsequently has taught me the most. I've learned how important it is to have all types of representation and how when we work together we can accomplish our goals.

If you have read my monthly messages, you know that I love and cherish our wonderful California desert. The Johnson Valley off-road area offers so much opportunity and is too big to lose! Since it is a Federal government issue we all agreed that saving our OHV area was way more than any single OHV group could handle. A plan was put in place for all our OHV groups to work together under one organization – the California Motorized Recreation Council (CMRC). Representatives from almost all the OHV organizations meet almost weekly to discuss the current status of Johnson Valley and the Marine expansion. But this is not the only cause that CMRC researches. In the years ahead, CMRC will bring all the groups together again to save the next attempt to close our OHV public land. Together, the off-road community, through CMRC, can present a unified voice and a unified strength. You know the saying, there is strength in numbers!

As CORVA members, you have been asked to sign petitions, call your legislators, and submit comments. CORVA taught you what to say with our CORVA Comments Project Classes. Along with this, CORVA participated in and supported the efforts of CMRC as a group. Together we made a plan and raised funds over \$100,000.00 to hire the Livingston Group to lobby Washington, D.C. in our multi-faceted attempt to Save Johnson Valley. What I'm saying is the battle always needs to be fought on all sides. By working together, it looks like we may have won this one – but since it's not over yet, we must remain diligent.

After five years, I now release the helm as your President, and I want to thank all the members who have supported CORVA with their time and money over the last 40+ years. It has been an honor to serve as your President and I always appreciated all the kind words from you at our CORVA events. I also want to thank all the Board members, as they are the ones who always made me look so good. Whether it was advice from Bruce Whitcher, Amy Granat, or Diana Mead on land use issues, or from Ed Waldheim, who taught me so much even if it was sometimes painful! Wayne Ford, Steve Hewitt, Clayton Miller, Vinnie Barbarino, Jim Colln, Katherine Kelsey, and Debi Campbell, you make the CORVA events the best. All CORVA members should work a CORVA event to see how this great team works together. I also want to thank the many other Board members, including Helen Baker, Ed Stovin, Terry Work, Byron Baker, Ken Clarke and Linda Wucherpfennig, who continue the administration, legislation, club promotion, grant application and marketing strength of our organization, keeping CORVA involved throughout California. And our newest member, Mike Moore, is perhaps our most valuable new member, serving as our Treasurer. Under his careful guidance, CORVA will continue to grow as a strong grassroots OHV organization. There are so many more of you who never served on our board, but I wouldalso like to thank, like Chef Tom and Sous-chef Steve (ah, those awesome Tri-Tip dinners!).

There isn't room for me to list you all, but know that I will never forget all you have done to help me and CORVA over the last five years. Additionally, I hope everyone will support the new President and the new Board members, elected at the annual meeting this month. A united CORVA is a strong CORVA. Thank you everyone for all you do for to keep CORVA strong.

With that said, how about YOU? Are you going to sit and watch as more public land is removed from the OHV experience? Or will you now, get up and volunteer for something? CORVA needs you – without our volunteers, we would not have been as successful as we have been in saving Johnson Valley. Even if you don't serve on the CORVA Board, don't you think it may be time to get off your butt and make a difference?! See you on the trail!

Jubala

# **CORVA Annual Meeting: Open Board Positions**

As you all know, the 2013 CORVA Annual Meeting is quickly approaching, and I would like to remind you to check the ad on page 2 for general information and information about Club Awards.

The following are the Positions up for election this year, followed by a brief job description:

#### **President**

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall preside over all meetings of the Association, Board of Directors (BOD) meetings, and specially called meetings. He/She shall have the duty, with the Board of Directors, to carry out the policies and decisions of the board. He/She shall be without the right to vote at Board of Directors meetings, except in the event of a tie. He/She shall sign all checks with the Treasurer. If the President is unable to sign a check, he/she may authorize one of the Vice Presidents or Secretary to sign in his/her stead. He/She shall appoint all Association committees to perform such duties as are defined in their operation or creation, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. He/She shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office of the President, and he/she shall be ex-officio – a member of all committees. He/She shall also act as an advisor for the Board of Directors for one (1) year after completion of his/her term of office.

# **Vice President - Land Resources and Public Policy**

The Vice President – Land Resources and Public Policy shall be responsible for the public policy initiatives for the Association. He/She shall serve as Chair of the Land Access Committee, and shall direct the development of CORVA positions before the Administrative and Legislative bodies that are responsible for creating and carrying out the public policies that affect the sport of off-roading or the Association. He/She shall, with consultation with the President and the Board, serve as the principal spokesperson before public agencies in articulating the Association position on matters of public policy. He/She shall work in conjunction and be responsible for coordinating the efforts of CORVA and other allied organizations when appropriate to develop consensus positions on issues of importance to the community.

# **Vice President - Sales & Marketing**

The Vice President – Sales & Marketing shall develop and implement sales and marketing plans and strategies, and build, motivate, and lead sales and marketing teams to meet the goals of CORVA to increase both individual and associate memberships. Responsible for brand building/c- branding with target organizations and Associate Members. Interface with all other CORVA departments to steer CORVA toward increased income and membership. Build relationships with manufactures and distributors in the OHV industry to increase awareness of CORVA. Chair the Marketing Committee.

## **Secretary**

The Secretary shall take minutes at all Supporting Membership and Board of Director Meetings, and shall write any required correspondence. He/She shall make the minutes of the meetings available to Supporting Members upon request. Minutes of the Executive meeting shall be made available to Board of Directors only. He/She shall be custodian of all records, reports and correspondence of CORVA, past and present. He/She shall forward all moneys to the Treasurer promptly.

We hope that all members and club representatives will join us this year in Visalia CA. for the Annual Meeting.

<b>CORVA NEEDS YOUR HELP!</b>	I AM DONATING TO:		
Here are the main projects that CORVA is	Legal Fund	\$	
involved with at this time. Please cut this	Sierra Pro Access Group	\$	
form out and mail with your donation to:	Lawsuit against Forest Service	\$	
CORVA	Reopening of Clear Creek Area	\$	
1500 W. El Camino Ave. #352	Funding the CA Desert Legal Bills	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Sacramento, CA 95833-1945</b>	Funding work at:		
Saci amento, CA 75055-1745	Other Area:	<b>\$</b>	
Name	General Fund (non specific)	<b>\$</b>	
Address	TOTAL	<b>\$</b>	
City	Please make checks payable to CORVA		
State / Zip	Donations are not deductible as charitable c	ontributions	

# **CORVA Land Use Resources and Public Policy Report**

# By Bruce Whitcher CORVA VP of Land Resources and Public Policy

# Clear Creek Final Environmental Impact Statement Released

Limited use of designated routes by street legal vehicles and ATV/UTV's to be allowed. The remaining route network would be "closed" to vehicles based on the feasibility of managing risk to human health and the environment from airborne asbestos emissions generated by management and visitor use activities.

In response to new information provided in the CCMA Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment (2008), BLM issued a temporary closure order on May 1, 2008 that closed 30,000-acres within the CCMA's Serpentine ACEC to all public use and entry. Subsequently, BLM prepared the CCMA Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (2009) to consider the information in the EPA report and analyze a full range of management options and alternatives for the CCMA through the BLM's land use planning process.

Following public review and comment on the BLM's "preferred alternative", the Hollister Field Office developed this Proposed RMP and Final EIS to incorporate public comments and other agency input. The "Proposed Action" is the BLM's "preferred alternative" and includes public input requesting motorized use.

BLM acknowledges that controversy exists regarding the human health risks associated with exposure to naturally occurring asbestos. The EPA risk assessment and the IERF report both highlighted the need for further research to determine effective strategies to reduce risk to CCMA visitors. The BLM would consider changes to designated route systems and the transportation network in the future. At a minimum, the BLM will re-examine the body of peer-reviewed data available on this subject within three years.

#### **Transportation and Travel Management & Recreation Opportunities**

Numerous individuals and organizations commented that additional acreage should be recommended for motorized and non-motorized recreation. As a result, approximately 21 additional miles of vehicle routes in the Serpentine ACEC have been added for limited vehicle use under the Proposed Action that include major routes R1, R10, R13, R14, R15, and other minor routes including T103, T104, T151, T153, and T158. An additional 2.75 miles of existing routes are proposed to be designated open in the Condon Zone and an additional 2.75 miles of existing routes are proposed to be designated open in the Cantua Zone near Wright Mountain.

Only highway-licensed vehicles would be permitted on approximately 32 miles of designated routes within the Serpentine ACEC. BLM is proposing to allow all-terrain and universal terrain vehicles (ATV/UTV) in the Condon Zone in order to support limited OHV recreation opportunities and other non-motorized recreation activities like hunting. Similarly, the Cantua Zone would be designated a "limited" vehicle use area that would allow access to highway-licensed vehicles and ATV/UTV's on designated routes. BLM would not designate routes in the Cantua Zone until a Travel Management Plan is approved for the area.

The remaining route network would be designated "closed" to vehicle use based on the feasibility of managing risk to human health and the environment from airborne asbestos emissions generated by management and visitor use activities.

#### What the proposed plan would do

- Prohibit camping and staging for recreation in the Serpentine ACEC, except at Jade Mill Campground. Camping and staging would be allowed outside the ACEC.
- Motorized access in the Serpentine ACEC by permits only, visitor use limited to 5 days/year for motorized activities. Limit use for non-motorized activities to 12 days/year.
- Limit visitor use in the Serpentine ACEC to one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset (i.e. day use only), except at Jade Mill Campground.
- Vehicle use in the Tucker, Condon, Cantua, and San Benito River Zones would be limited to highway licensed vehicles and ATV/UTV use only on designated routes identified on the Proposed Action Map.
- Develop and maintain approximately 30 miles of routes and trails in the Condon, Tucker, and Cantua Zones for non-motorized recreation.

There is a 30-day public protest period from April 5, 2013 - May 6, 2013. Protests must be sent to: Director (210) Attn: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, D.C. 20035 or 1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1075, Washington, D.C. 20036. The Dear Reader letter includes complete instructions on how to file a public protest.

Continued on next page

More information about the public protest period and resolution process is available at the BLM Resource Management Plan Protest Resolution informational web page. Following the 30-day public protest period, BLM must resolve protests before approving any changes to the CCMA's land use decisions. The final Record of Decision (ROD) for the CCM PRMP/FEIS will replace the current Temporary Closure Order for the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

# State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Off Highway Motor Vehicle Division

2012/2013 Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program

**Grant Cycle - Important Dates:** 

Monday, May 6, 2013: Applications final filing date.

Monday, June 3, 2013: Intent to Award posted on the OHMVR Division's website.

Tuesday, June 4 to-Wednesday, July 3, 2013: Thirty (30) calendar day appeal period.

Friday, July 5, 2013: Final awards posted on the OHMVR Division's website upon resolution of any appeals.

Thanks to all of you who submitted comments on the grant applications for funding to support OHV recreation on public lands. It is very important to read and comment on various projects being funded by our grant dollars. Everyone needs to be aware of how our grant funding is being used. Grant proposals, once submitted, can only be changed based on comments made by interested parties or the Division. All proposals must provide public notice so it is easy to find out what projects are planned for your favorite area. The Division's On-Line Grants Application (OLGA) database allows the public to view preliminary applications in a centralized location. Instructions may be found at:

http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/pages/1140/files/grants-publiccommentsdirections 2012-2013.pdf

# OHV Division Eastern Kern County Land Acquisition - Draft Environmental Impact Report

If successful, this will be the first major land acquisition for OHV use in years. Anyone who has been to the Jawbone/Dove area has ridden though this land. The only way to assure the trail system there will remain is for this land purchase to be completed. Everyone needs to get behind this. Imagine, over 28,000 acres!

The OHMVR Division is proposing to acquire and manage 59 privately-owned parcels (approximately 28,275 acres) in Kern County, California, from ReNu Resources, LLC (ReNu), a private company that owns and manages agricultural land in California. The ReNu parcels are largely interspersed with lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Property management includes visitor activities, maintenance and operations, resource management, minor projects, and special events. These activities could involve minor ground disturbance activities such as installation of fencing, signage, vault toilets, or re-routing of recreational trails. No changes in land uses or significant site improvements are proposed. No expansion of open riding or the existing route network is proposed. No new points of access to the project property or changes to open range grazing are proposed.

# Johnson Valley Record of Decision Released

Department of the Navy Announces Selection of Alternative 6

In late February the Department of the Navy released the selection of Alternative 6 that includes the withdrawal of public land and purchase of private and state lands collectively totaling approximately 167,971 acres west and south of the existing 29 Palms Combat Center. This alternative has been selected for implementation and recommendation to Congress.

# **Update - Eldorado National Forest Draft Plan for 42 Routes**

The 42 routes are some of the best on the El Dorado – it is critical that they be kept open!

In settling a lawsuit filed in 2009 regarding the Eldorado National Forest's Travel Management decision, Judge Karlton issued his final order on July 31, 2012. In May 2011, Judge Karlton had upheld the majority of the Forest's 2008 Travel Management decision; although the Court did find that the Forest had erred in designating 42 roads or trails crossing meadows. This draft Supplemental EIS is the Forests plan for remedies and corrective actions ordered by the Court.

This Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) documents the analysis of four alternatives for designation of 42 specific existing roads and trails for public motorized use on the Eldorado National Forest. Alternative 3 is preferred by the Forest Service and does not include the plan amendment that would allow many of the 42 routes to remain open. It also calls for mitigation measures prior to opening 18 routes for public use. Alternative 4 proposes to leave closed all or portions of 21 of the 42 routes.

CORVA submitted an extensive list of comments on this action. Thanks to all of you who attended our comment writing workshop in Shingle Springs and who submitted comments.

Continued on next page

# Public Comments Sought for Land Management Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement

GOLETA, CA – Forest Service officials are seeking public comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed Amendment to the Land Management Plans for the four Southern California national forests (the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino).

Summary of Land Use	Altern	ative N	umber	Summary of Land Use	Alten	native Nu	ımber
Zones proposed for each Forest by Alternative	1	2	3	Zones proposed for each Forest by Alternative	1	2	3
Angeles	Acres	Acres	Acres	Los Padres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Back Country	2,390	826	312	Back Country	154,640	15,935	8,144
Back Country Motorized Use Restricted	3,370	669	608	Back Country Motorized Use Restricted	164,696	10,114	3,406
Back Country Non- Motorized	62,608	27,150	1,035	Back Country Non- Motorized	86,581	379,878	62,167
Critical Biological	326	12	- 0	Critical Biological	395	395	395
Developed Area Interface	1,505	476	529	Developed Area Interface	7,032	7,021	6,527
Existing Wilderness	8	- 8	8	Existing Wilderness	936	936	936
Recommended Wilderness	0	41,065	67,715	Recommended Wilderness	5,306	5,306	338,011
Cleveland	Acres	Acres	Acres	San Bernardino	Acres	Acres	Acres
Back Country	6,180			Back Country	6,882	394	377
Back Country Motorized Use Restricted	5,666	3,396	2,353	Back Country Motorized Use Restricted	2,813	609	625
Back Country Non- Motorized	68,187	34,898	6,131	Back Country Non- Motorized	20,332	29,691	155
Critical Biological	507	507	- 0	Critical Biological	0	- 0	0
Developed Area Interface	3,000	1,321		Developed Area Interface	1,440	773	773
Existing Wilderness	- 0	0	0	Existing Wilderness	11	11	11
Recommended Wilderness	0	41,539		Recommended Wilderness	18,218	18,218	47,755

This Proposed Amendment to the Land Management Plan is part of the Settlement Agreement approved January 3, 2011, in the case of California Resources Agency, et al vs. United States Department of Agriculture, and Center for Biological Diversity, et al vs. United States Department of Agriculture.

## How to Comment

The public is encouraged to participate in the process. Comments should be received within 90 days of the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The Notice was published on Friday, February 15, 2013, and the comment period closes on THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013.

Comments may be sent via e-mail to: <u>socal\_nf\_lmp\_amendment@fs.fed.us</u>, or filed through the project web page at: <u>http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\_project\_exp.php?project=35130</u>.

Send written comments to: Cleveland National Forest/ 10845 Rancho Bernardo Road/ Suite 200, San Diego/ CA 92127-2107/ ATTN: LMP Amendment

For further information, contact Project Manager Bob Hawkins at: <a href="mailto:socal\_nf\_lmp\_amendment@fs.fed.us">socal\_nf\_lmp\_amendment@fs.fed.us</a> or visit the project website at <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=35130">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=35130</a>.

# CORVA Board of Directors - Secretary

By Linda Wucherpfennig

I would like to announce my intention of running for the CORVA Board of Directors Secretary position. I feel that my skill set would best represent CORVA as Secretary. I have discovered in the past year that I am developing a passion for Public Land Access for ALL motorized recreation and have started attending OHV Leadership, BLM, Forest Service, etc., meetings as a CORVA representative. I have learned and am continuing to learn, and I feel my best contribution moving forward would be as the CORVA Secretary. Not only will this allow me the needed time to continue attending meetings, but it will also give me the opportunnity to report back to our membership so they are in the know.

I learned during my 1 year term as VP - Sales & Marketing that there was critical need to create a Strategic Plan to grow CORVA as an organization. The plan has kicked off and we are already realizing positive outcomes. It is in the best interest of our membership to ensure that this position is filled by an individual experienced in marketing who will continue to help CORVA grow.

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#### **No More Quiet Recreation**

To say motorized recreation advocates want "Noisy Recreation" makes us sound callous and uncaring about the spectacular sceneries we find on public land. The call for "Quiet Recreation" has also become a subtle way to demean or degrade any type of motorized access. At its very core is a strong reek of discrimination against the use of motorized vehicles on public land. And with the mask of civility removed, it becomes clear that activities using motorized and mechanized equipment are being reduced to second class citizens in the eyes of public land managers.

When the Wilderness Act of 1964 was passed, one of the principles was the creation of areas where no mechanized/motorized equipment or vehicles would be allowed to operate. The premise behind that injunction is understandable to most, and the original estimate of 10 million acres throughout the United States suitable for this designation, fairly reasonable. The added reality that these areas would also be made inaccessible to anyone unable to withstand strenuous hikes seemed a small price to pay to protect the very small percentage of public land perceived eligible as Wilderness.

Fast forward almost 50 years, and we find that California alone is home to 14.1 million acres of Wilderness, with unceasing calls for more and more designations. Along with Wilderness Study Areas, that also abound in all our forests and BLM lands, these areas are the epitome of quiet. As no mechanized or motorized activity is allowed at all in either type of Wilderness, anyone seeking refuge from noise can easily find it in these areas that otherwise serve as a barren wasteland for all activities.

With all other motorized, mining, hunting with game carts and mountain bike riding confined to non-Wilderness or Wilderness Study Area lands, the vast number of people who engage in these activities find ourselves sharing a smaller and smaller percentage of public land. But to add insult to injury, we now find ourselves the target of further assaults by being targeted by calls for "Quiet Recreation". It is defined by its advocates solely as human-powered recreation, and in its essence precludes motorized vehicles, mountain bikes and equestrian activity. Anti-access groups speak of this concept in glowing terms, referencing respite from urban landscapes and silence to relieve the stress of everyday life. But they completely overlook the fact that they have 14.1 million acres of respite and silence built into Wilderness areas spread throughout the State of California, with the rest of humanity trying to coexist in whatever land is leftover.

If we let this terminology pass without attacking it every time we come face to face with this discrimination, we stand a chance to lose what little area we have left. But more than that, we will be conceding the high ground; we will be conceding in some subconscious way that our chosen form of recreation is less valuable, less important, or less vital than "Quiet Recreation".

I don't buy it, I don't agree with that assessment. Those of us in the motorized community have occasionally exhibited a form of collective guilt, because we have been beaten down so many times by accusations and innuendo in land use plans. I now give all of you permission to shed those erroneous illusions, to break out of your downtrodden psyches to proclaim loud and clear that motorized recreation is quiet recreation; that motorized recreation is going to stay on public land through the force of our efforts. Anyone that tries to influence public policy with calls for more barren landscapes, sans the energy of an engine should be quickly and decisively directed to the nearest Wilderness Area.

# **WHEN DOES YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRE?**

Look on your mailing label to find out.



# **CORVA Board of Directors - President**

My name is Harry Baker and I am running for the office of President of CORVA. I have been a member for 30 years. When I joined in the early 80's, CORVA was the most politically active organization in the state, and it remains so to this date. I support the direction that the CORVA Board has set and I would like to add my many years working on land use issues to their efforts. I look forward to speaking with any member regarding my candidacy. Give me a call or send an email and let's communicate. I can be reached at 818-705-3930 or bakerhab@aol.com.

# N2Dirt Announces Annual Award Recipients

The N2Dirt Board of Directors has donated \$1,000.00 each to the "Stewards of the Sequoia" and the "San Bernardino National Forest Friends" to help the organizations promote and maintain motorized public access to off-road areas. The donations were made possible because of the generosity of Bill and Cherie Hadsell. N2Dirt will award donations on behalf of the Hadsell's again in 2013 and 2014.

Additionally, the N2Dirt Board of Directors awarded a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the "Sierra Access Coalition" to help the organization promote motorized public access in the Plumas National Forest. This donation came from the John Weddle Estate, for the benefit of Off-Highway trail access opportunities in the Plumas National Forest.

N2Dirt is an educational charity dedicated to promoting safe and responsible off road use. Off-roaders are encouraged to strive to obey the Play For Keeps code of ethics and to include regular clean-up campaigns for off road clubs and groups to aide in a continued effort to clean up the off road areas throughout California. The N2Dirt Board congratulates these programs for their continued efforts to assist in the maintenance of off-road trails by providing the tools necessary for OHV clubs and organizations to use.

To ensure the continued public access for off-highway vehicle recreation on public land, N2Dirt also sponsors watchdog research and litigation projects that represent the direct interests of OHV users. The N2Dirt logo is an icon to those who care about how and where we have those opportunities. The Play For Keeps code of ethics and further information about N2Dirt can be found on the website - N2Dirt.org.

Your tax deductible donations can be mailed to:

**N2Dirt** 

4346 E. Los Angeles Ave.

Simi Valley, CA 93063.

Or donate via PayPal. Email: n2dirt.org@gmail.com.

For more information about the award recipients, please contact them directly at:

Stewards of the Sequoia PO Box 1246

Wofford Heights, CA 93285

San Bernardino National Forest Friends

22170 Moonbeam Trail Apple Valley, CA 92308

Sierra Access Coalition **RE: Adopt A Trail program PO Box 944 Quincy, CA 95971** 

N2Dirt – IRS Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity California Corp# C2749744 FEIN# 20-2944512 Donations to N2Dirt are Tax Deductible. Check with your tax advisor.



Continued from Page 1

# **CORVA Comments on State Grants**

Planning is looking for \$181k to inventory invasive and sensitive plant species along OHV routes. This is not really what this type of grants is for. It says in section 4 "Design and provide outreach materials which will increase OHV recreationist's awareness about controlling litter and the spread of invasive species..." This part should be under an education grant, or possibly restoration, but not planning. Planning should be making plans to enhance OHV opportunity, such as planning to open new trails or OHV trail head/parking areas. I recommend limiting this request significantly. Please do make a planning grant to open new trails, though.

I'm not sure if this entity is eligible for a grant or deserves funding. I know from personal experience that green/red stickers are not required or checked at the entrance to this facility, which by itself makes it hard to justify recommending any funding. The \$300k asked for is more money than most BLM and Forest areas ask for operation and maintenance for open areas and hundreds of miles of trails. I like the facility, having personally raced there, but I don't feel it deserves O and M grant money.

I have a fundamental problem with this grant. Law enforcement grants are designed to keep the peace in legal off-road vehicle areas. City of XXXXX has no legal OHV areas, so it is hard for me to see the city of XXXXX get law enforcement grant money. When the BLM asks for money to patrol legal OHV areas, I support that type of grant. This, however, is not what the grant program was designed to do. Inside your grant, your pay rate for sergeant and LE officers is pretty high. Another question is, why do you need 14 sets of safety gear when you say you have one dual sport motorcycle?

Though this is a modest sized grant, it is hard to justify recommending funding because there is no legal off-road vehicle area in the city of XXXXX. It should be remembered that this type of grant is designed to support law enforcement patrols of legal off-road vehicle areas. While I feel for the city and its problems, I would prefer to see law enforcement grant money going to places that have legal off-road vehicle use.



The grant states "XXXXX County contains numerous legal OHV riding areas within its borders." XXXXX County actually doesn't have numerous legal OHV areas. While it does have some legal trails in the eastern desert and a very small trail area in the Cleveland National Forest (8 miles of trails in Wildomar), there are no open areas like Imperial County and San Bernardino County.

The grant states "Both legal and illegal OHV use in the desert tortoise's habitat threatens this species' survival." I am familiar with desert tortoise issues and I know there are no scientific studies that have come to the conclusion that OHV use threatens the species survival. The grant further asserts "Their habitat, which is more than 100 square miles in size, is primarily east of the Coachella Valley." This is wrong, as the desert tortoise critical habitat is actually in California, Nevada, Utah and in Arizona north and west of the Grand Canyon and covers many hundreds of square miles. Far more than the XXXXX County grant asserts. I am not sure why false information about the desert tortoise is included in a law enforcement grant, but it serves no good to do so. These grants are designed to protect OHV opportunities, with so little opportunities in XXXXX County, their grant request should fall in line behind other agencies that have significantly more opportunity.

My problem with this grant is that XXXXX County has no OHV area to patrol that is allowed by grants. Yes, Carnegie SVRA is there, but SVRA's are not eligible for law enforcement grants. So, what areas are you patrolling? These grants are to provide support for legal OHV areas, not simply to stop illegal OHV activity.

This is a relatively modest grant that supports OHV in the eastern part of XXXXX County. What I don't understand is why the applicants do not know the names of the legal OHV areas. As in years past they incorrectly name OHV areas. They say they patrol "Borrego Springs Highway Legal Vehicle Recreation Park". No such area exists. It looks like they may mean Anza Borrego Desert State Park. Also incorrectly mentioned is "Corral Canyon OHV State Park" No such park exists, however, they may mean, Corral Canyon within the Cleveland National Forest, which is Federal, not State. The grant mentions a legal area as "Otay Truck Trail" Which is actually Otay Mountain Truck Trail and is currently closed with a locked gate on the west side. If this Sheriff's department is patrolling these areas and has a working relationship with the agencies, I would think they would know the names of the areas and what level of government they are working with.



# CORVA LETTER OF ASSIGNMENT For Club Delegate

Date:
I,, Club President of
(club) give authority to our club delegate
to vote at the CORVA Annual meeting on our behalf, except for those members present who will vote on their own accord. This delegation form supersedes any delegation or proxy signed and/or filed prior to this form.
Signed,
Club President (signature)
Printed name
CORVA membership #
Phone # (for verification purposes)
Address
City, State, Zip
Email address
NOTE: For the proxy to be valid:  1. (for clubs with less than 10 members) The club must be 100% COBVA membership with all in good star.

- 2. (for clubs with 10 or more members) A minimum of 10 members must be CORVA members in good standing.

Please contact membership@corva.org to validate members standing prior to the election.



# CORVA LETTER OF ASSIGNMENT Non-Club Delegate

Date:	
Ι,	, give authority to my delegate
	_ to vote on my behalf at the CORVA Annual meeting.
Signed,	
(Signature of CORVA member)	
Printed name	
CORVA membership #	
Phone # (for verification reasons)	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Email address	
NOTE: For the proxy to be valid the delegate must have a mi	nimum of 10 proxies for CORVA members in good standing.
Please contact membership@corva.org to valida	te members standing prior to the election.

The Modesto Ridge Runners would like to invite you to participate in our

# "ANNUAL HIGH DESERT RALLY"

# **August 9th-11th, 2013**

This year's entry fee is \$275.00 for 2 people, with 2 nights room (double occupancy Fri. & Sat.) at the El Capitan Motel and Casino in Hawthorne, NV, two dinner tickets for the Awards Banquet Saturday night, two rally T-shirts and two Event Pins.

All rally vehicles must have Seat Belts for every person riding in the vehicle, a Fire Extinguisher and a Shovel (G.I. folding type is permitted). All green sticker vehicles must be equipped with a Forest Service approved spark arrester. This is a NON-REFUNDABLE entry fee for all rally vehicles. The Forest Service will be checking all vehicles prior to the run.

There is secured parking in the lot behind the Motel. TOW UNITS, TRAILERS and SUPPORT VEHICLES MUST PARK IN THE BACK LOT NO EXCEPTIONS. RALLY VEHICLES WILL BE THE ONLY VEHICLES PERMITTED IN THE MOTEL PARKING LOT FOR THE NIGHT.

# **Schedule:**

Friday August 9th: Vehicle check-in at the Motel parking lot 12:00pm to 5:00pm. Re-open 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Saturday August 10th: Vehicle check-in at the Motel parking lot at 5:00am to 6:00am.

7:00 a.m. MANDATORY Drivers Meeting in the parking lot behind the Motel

7:30 a.m. Sheriff Escort to the staging area

8:00 a.m. First Car out on the Rally 6:30 p.m. Cocktails, lies, and stories

8:00 p.m. DINNER, AWARDS, RAFFLES AND 50-50 DRAWING

Sunday, August 11th: YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN. HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE!!!

RESERVATIONS ARE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS, SO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION EARLY!

# **QUESTIONS OR REGISTRATION?**

# **NOT A MEMBER?**

www.corva.org

SIGN UP ONLINE OR USE THE FORM ON PAGE 19

www.corva.org

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1/4 Page (3 3/4" x 4 3/4")	<b>\$165</b>	\$300	<b>\$540</b>
Business Card (3 5/8" x 2")	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$162</b>	\$264

For more information please contact us at: 800-42-CORVA

Or send an email to: <a href="mailto:advertising@corva.org">advertising@corva.org</a>.

We need you to help CORVA make a difference. Show your support and advertise in the newsletter.

# **Managing Director's Report**

by Amy Granat

# **CORVA's Keys to Success**

April has been a very good month for CORVA. Although every month CORVA strives to make a positive difference for off-road access throughout the state, April in some ways epitomizes exactly why CORVA is the best statewide organization representing OHV recreation and off-road access. Advocacy, education, and representation are CORVA's keys to success for off-road recreation. Let's take each one individually:

Advocacy: In April, CORVA testified before the California Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing regarding SB234, a bill grandfathering in modifications made to Side by Side vehicles, or UTVs, built before the 2014 model year. After the passage of AB1595 last year, many UTV enthusiasts found themselves in an untenable situation; suddenly modifications made to their vehicles were made retroactively illegal. Enthusiasts complained and asked for help, and CORVA responded! Through the efforts of our own Bob Ham, and support from Senator Mimi Walters, CORVA was able to reach an agreement with the manufacturer representatives and present a united front to the California State Senate. With American Sand Association and ABATE joining us at the Capitol, the Senate Committee passed our bill unanimously. Now we will go to the Assembly committee, and onward to the Legislature as a whole for vote, and the bill will ultimately end up at the Governor's desk for signing. With no objections to the bill, CORVA has listened to our members. Your priorities became CORVA's priorities!



Education: Last month, CORVA submitted two sets of comments on the Eldorado National Forest Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that proposes to close almost 20 of the best 4WD trails in the forest, along with 90% of the forest's high country motorcycle trails. In March, CORVA held a Comments Project Workshop in Shingle Springs addressing the critical issues referred to in the Eldorado National Forest document, and through the efforts of everyone who came to the workshop, and the members of the Comments Project Team, critical issues were unearthed that will challenge the forest's plan for closure. This is just a sample of what we give back to the community through education, and sharing our knowledge about land use plans. Now CORVA is working on protest comments to submit to the BLM on Clear Creek, while helping enthusiasts with other issues throughout the state. Educated enthusiasts make effective enthusiasts, helping to save off-road access.

Representation: In April, CORVA addressed critical issues relating to the future of land use plans for our California forests. The Pacific Southwest Research Station, the scientific arm of the Forest Service, released a document of issues affecting the forests called the "Science Synthesis". CORVA found the criticism of OHV recreation, along with equestrian access, unacceptable, and along with our colleagues from Stewards of the Sequoia, demanded that the scientists review their conclusions in regards to off-road access and change their report to emphasize the benefits of off-road recreation in our forests. Along with requesting change, CORVA offered to assist the Pacific Southwest Research Station and expand their empirical knowledge. It is one thing to read and review scientific studies, but it's another thing to share information and knowledge gained from our many years as representatives of off-road recreation. Our job is not only to criticize, but to help others understand how important motorized access is to all visitors to our forests and public land. After stopping a document that would have set a very bad precedent and would likely haunt us in years to come, CORVA addressed the issue and we are working to solve the problem.

This is what CORVA does: work to advocate, educate, and represent off-road recreation and motorized access to our very best ability. Our members are the critical part of this equation. Only with your support, memberships, and donations can we make this happen. CORVA is holding our Annual Meeting on May 18th in Visalia, at the Lamp Liter Inn, and would love to see all of you in person at this meeting. CORVA is holding a block of rooms at the Inn for our members, or you can come for the day. The member's meeting starts at 11:00am, and for any more information please email me at <a href="may.granat@corva.org">amy.granat@corva.org</a>. In the meantime, we will continue doing what we do best: passionately working to defend off-road recreational access in California.

The following are requests for 2013 CORVA Bylaw's changes/amendments to be voted on at the CORVA Annual Meeting 2013 May 18, 2013 - Visalia, CA – All Club representatives and members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by Katherine Kelsey, Request for removal of:

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THEIR DUTIES Section 8: Term Limits

No Officer may serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same position.

Reason: To force them to be removed from their board position or switch titles with another board position is not to CORVA's advantage.

# Submitted by Amy Granat:

- Proposal to change Article VI, Section 3, Subsection A of current by-law that reads:
   "He/She shall also act as an advisor for the Board of Directors for one (1) year after
   completion of his/her term of office." to read: <u>"He/She shall also act as an advisor for
   the Board of Directors until there is a new Past-President".</u>
- 2. Proposal to raise dues for supporting members to \$40.00 a year. The specific amount of supporting membership dues is not in the by-laws, but notification to members upon consideration of a change must be made 30 days in advance of the meeting. I propose this change be made at this year's Annual Meeting, and be noticed in the ORIA starting with the next issue. See Section V, Section 1 for details.
- 3. Proposal to change Article V, Section 2 from: "Dues for Associate Membership shall be a minimum donation of \$365.00 per year. Dues shall be payable within sixty (60) days of expiration date." to: "Dues for Business Affiliates shall be set by the VP of Marketing in consultation with the President.
- Proposal to change Article IV, Section 1, Subsection B from: Associate Membership to Business Affiliate Membership. And anywhere in the by-laws where the words "Associate Membership" are mentioned, change the wording to read "Business Affiliate".
- 5. Proposal to change Article VI, Section 3, Subsection K, Section 8 "Term Limits" from: "No Officer may serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same position." to add another sentence: "Upon approval of a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors, an Officer of the Board may have his/her term extended. Each additional term of (2) years must have a separate vote."

The current CORVA Bylaws can be viewed at: http://www.corva.org/pages.php?pageid=59

# **MEMBER DONATIONS**

# <u>LEGAL FUND</u> <u>GENERAL FUND</u>

DONALD & KATHY KRAMER	\$10.00	BRUCE BODENHOFER &	
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MISCELLANEOUS LEGAL DONAT	TONS	KEVIN HEWITT	\$100.00
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CA DESERT LEGAL FUND		DON & VIRGINIA KESLER	\$70.00

MICHAEL BECKER \$50.00

CLEAR CREEK
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To help us out and make a donation please see the ad on page 5.

Thank You

# **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

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RICHARD EVANS
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EDWARD & ERIN HASHIMOTO
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ROBERT & RENATE KLAUS
ROBERT MEYER
JOHN & NICOLE SAFFELO

WILLIAM SMITH
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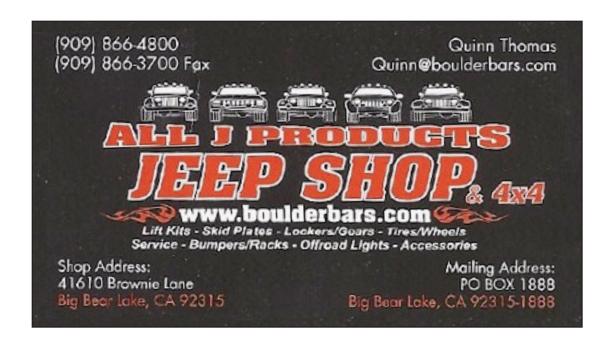
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# Letter to the Editor

This message is for all CORVA members. If you would like to contribute your Off-Roading experience or your experience of fighting for Off-Road access to the ORIA newsletter, we would be glad to hear it. It will be published in our future "Letter to the Editor" section. Just send an attached document by email to <a href="editor@corva.org">editor@corva.org</a> with the subject "Letter to the Editor. Feel free to give us your opinions on the newsletter as well. Let your voice be heard!

# Save the Date: CORVA Annual Meeting May 18th

All CORVA Members should attend the Annual Meeting on May 18th in Visalia California. This is a great opportunity for you to get involved in what we do, including voting for several key Board of Directors positions, and voting for by-law changes. See the ad on page 2 for more information.

**CUT OUT AND MAIL IN** 

# **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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# CORVA CALENDAR

May:

5/18 CORVA Annual Meeting in Visalia, CA (see ad on page 10).

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



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