



OFF-ROADERS IN ACTION

A California BLM Resource Advisory Councils (RAC) recognized the need for more off-road riding areas and took action by forming an OHV subcommittee

According to the BLM all options are on the table and open for discussion. Possibilities under review are:

- Development of mini-OHV parks close to urban areas in partnership with local cities and counties
- Pursue large tracts of land within the state of California
- Analyze obstacles standing in the way of reopening previously closed areas
- Investigating options with private land owners for recreation opportunities

CORVA has been there to advocate for California Off Road interests at the OHV sub-committee meetings. The first meeting was held in Santa Nella in July, and the second meeting was recently held in Coalinga where they adopted the following mission statement:

" To provide quality recreational opportunities that remain available for future generations through programs that balance OHV recreational impact with programs that conserve and protect cultural and natural resources."

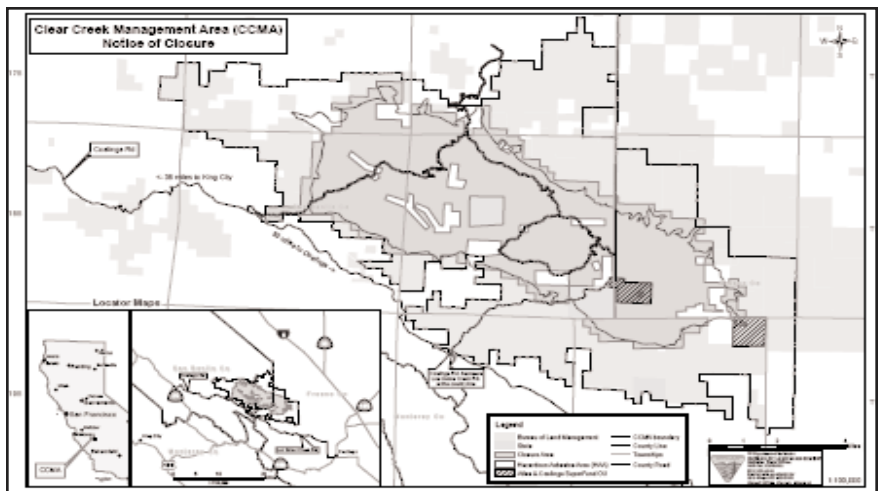
All Central California field offices have been asked to provide maps of possible new OHV areas within the next year. The Central California RAC encompasses the Folsom, Bakersfield, Hollister and Bishop field offices.

Formal approval to create the new OHV subcommittee occurred prior to the unfortunate closure of the Clear Creek Management Area by the BLM. The closure and subsequent outrage has reinforced the importance of the committee's primary goal of looking for new off-road recreation opportunities within the state of California.

A BLM Resource Advisory Council, or RAC, is a panel made up of citizen volunteers with varied areas of expertise who advise the BLM on natural resource issues. Panel members are chosen for their knowledge in particular specialties such as OHV recreation, grazing and may be members of tribal councils, state and local governments. Additionally, members are chosen for their collaborative spirit and consensus building attitude. The four RAC's in California are composed of 12 -15 members, and meet throughout the state from 3-4 times a year.

For years off-road recreation opportunities have diminished through closures and changes in road and trail designations throughout California while federal agencies ignore the pleas of off-road enthusiasts asking for increased opportunities and areas to enjoy their sport. The new BLM OHV subcommittee provides one small step in the right direction by dedicating resources and manpower to this effort.

The public is welcome to submit ideas about potential off-road areas to the subcommittee through our Vice President of Land Use, Bruce Whitcher, at bruce.whitcher@corva.org



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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, trials bikes, and dune buggies, as well as "street legal" 4x4 vehicles, dual sport motorcycles, baja and desert racers.

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Woods



Yep, that's me in the snow this past September on my yearly trip to Colorado. I've been lucky enough to visit the Gunnison area for 15 years now and that's where I got my first hand-slap for trail violations.

You see it was a beautiful August morning in 1993 and a group of us were riding on our Dual Sport motorcycles to the city of Marble. The city is named after the mine that produces the purest marble in the world and if a piece comes out with flaws they just roll it over the hill, and keep looking for the best of the best. The fallen spoils look like big sugar cubes lying alongside the mountain - bus size sugar cubes, that is.

My friend and I were following Doug, our guide, when he suddenly stalled his Kawasaki. We passed him and picked up the pace, thinking he would catch up with us shortly. It was a very spirited ride until about five miles down the road when we finally stopped to wait for Doug and the rest of the group. As Doug approached we saw we were in for a lecture. It was at that time I heard of all the hours volunteers had spent keeping this pass open to all OHV vehicles, and how our stupid behavior just may have cost the whole group the privilege of ever riding there again. Luckily enough when we passed the most photographed water mill in Colorado there was no one else around to offend. But that didn't make it right! Lesson learned.

From that time on, I gained a great respect for all that donate so much time to keep our trails open and made me realize that is what it takes to keep our public lands public. It also began my passion to help with the battle.

So while I was riding on my Colorado vacation this year, CORVA had volunteers to represent you at meetings for Johnson Valley and Sand Mountain. There were volunteers networking in Bakersfield with OHV leadership - a think-tank of all OHV groups. Another volunteer was working diligently putting together this newsletter. As Tom Ridge once said, "As long as we call ourselves a free people, we owe it to ourselves and others to serve, and volunteer."

CORVA member, Wes Hoagland had a great idea. He called it "Just Ten Hours" - where every member spent 10 hours a year volunteering to promote and preserve OHV use in California. What a difference we could make if all the CORVA members put forth this effort.

CORVA needs your help. We need volunteers to help with Marketing, Membership, Newsletter articles and an Editor as well. We need helpers for the booth at the Off Road Expo in Pomona. You can volunteer for an event or run an activity at a Jamboree or the Truckhaven Challenge. Soon we will need all of you to attend public meetings for the 29 Palms Military Expansion in Johnson Valley. If you can't attend, you can help with a massive letter writing campaign to try to convince our politicians to consider other locations for the expansion. If we don't try, we fail our future OHV children and ourselves. (Visit our website www.corva.org for current dates, locations and times.)

I think you get the picture. Set an example for your kids. Bring them with you, make it a family event. After all - we are doing this so they will still be able to enjoy our public land with their OHV and their kids!

Hope to see you at an event or meeting and if you can help please e-mail me. I look forward to working together with you all. jim.woods@corva.org

See you on the trail,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Woods".



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14th ANNUAL TRUCKHAVEN CHALLENGE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

by Geoff Teare

Believe it or not, 2009 is just around the corner, and that means the Truckhaven Challenge is almost upon us! Your Truckhaven Challenge crew is busy working on preparation for the event as you read this, and we anticipate another great run! The dates for next year will be January 24-25, 2009.

As most of you know, State Parks is preparing a new General Plan for the new Truckhaven area acquisition. Officials have told us the plan "should" be done in time for us to hold the event back in our traditional area off of North Marina Drive, and we have already applied for the permit. We however, are not totally convinced the plan will be done in time, and have also applied for a permit to have the event in the same place we had it this year, south of highway S-22 in Ocotillo Wells SVRA. This way we are covered no matter what.



The ad for the event will be in next month's newsletter, but because we may not know the exact location of the event until a few weeks before it takes place, there will be no map included. Instead, we will print a link to the CORVA website where we can update the map/event info at a moments notice. We don't want anybody going to the wrong location!

For the most part, the event will be the same as it has been the last few years: Poker Run on Saturday morning, Trailmasters Club BBQ dinner and raffle Saturday night, and Satellite Safari on Sunday morning.

One big change for 2009.....In order to attract the greatest amount of participants, we will now open up the event to the whole OHV community, not just CORVA members! We will of course sign up all non-members with a FREE 90 day membership, and they will have the opportunity to sign up as paid

CORVA members if they choose. So everybody tell your non-CORVA member friends to come on down to Truckhaven and join in the fun!

We had a lighter than normal turnout for the event this year as the weather in the L.A. – S.D. area was terribly stormy the days before the event. Most figured the weather at Truckhaven was bad too or just didn't want to make the trip in a downpour. This was too bad as the weather for the poker run on Saturday was wonderful! The rain did catch up to us just as we finished the raffle Saturday night though, and we had to cancel the Satellite Safari on Sunday as the desert had turned into a mud bog.

We anticipate lightning will not strike twice (sorry about that...) in two years, so we plan on having a much better turnout for 2009! So start making plans now, and we look forward to seeing you at the "Challenge" in January!

For questions please email to; geoff.teare@corva.org

For the latest information please always check the CORVA web site "Latest Issues"

CORVA Land Use Resources and Public Policy Report

By Bruce Whitcher

CORVA VP of Land Resources and Public Policy

- **Johnson Valley**

The withdrawal application to the BLM has been submitted that will place the area under military administration. The Department of the Navy announced that they will be publishing a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS in early November, with scoping meetings to be held in early December. They will consider various alternatives as to how they will utilize the land including input from the public. (read my summary about the NEPA process on page 15)

- **Clear Creek Management Area Management Plan Revision**

BLM published scoping comments related to the proposed CCMA Area plan revision. The revision is designed to update the management plan for the area to include new considerations such as asbestos exposure. BLM will now prepare alternatives for a draft EIS. Be sure to submit comments on this important DEIS!

- **Red Rock State Park General Plan Update**

The Red Rock General Plan update has been under development since 2006. It is designed to update the plan to include expansion of the park that has occurred with the addition of areas such as Last Chance Canyon and Nightmare Gulch. We anticipate public meetings to discuss the plan update in the next few months. Look for announcements, OHV use is certain to be affected.

- **OHV Draft Grant Regulations**

The draft OHV grant regulations will affect funding for OHV recreation everywhere in California. These regulations are posted on the California Parks Department website. The comment period ends October 6, 2008. A series of public meetings will be held to discuss the changes.

- **Forest Service Route Designation**

Route designation continues to move forward on California's National Forests. There have been delays due to fires on most forests. We anticipate the release of the draft EIS for Tahoe National Forest near the end of September, 2008. The release of draft EIS's for Plumas and Lassen National Forests will follow in November. We are entering a critical period for trail use on the National Forests, and comments are very important! Be sure to familiarize yourself with the plan for the forest where you recreate, and comment on your favorite trails.

- **Wilderness bills heard in House Natural Resources Committee; approved by the Senate Natural Resources Committee**

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted on and passed the Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act, sponsored by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), to permanently protect 465,000 acres of wilderness and 52 miles of wild and scenic rivers; the California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act, sponsored by Sen. Boxer and Rep. Mary Bono Mack (R-CA), which will protect more than 190,000 acres as wilderness and 31 miles of wild and scenic river in Riverside County; and the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness Act, sponsored by Sen. Boxer and Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA), to designate some 77,000 acres of wilderness.

These bills must move through Congress before it adjourns or they will have to be reintroduced next year. They may be amended into an omnibus lands bill to get them through in time. The McKeon/Boxer bill is highly controversial due to a number of last minute changes made with little stakeholder input.

These are just a few areas I selected for this months report. CORVA remains very active advocating for your rights in many others as well. We want to know your concerns regarding your favorite area for OHV recreation. In areas big or small, CORVA wants to be the resource to help keep our trails open. So please feel free to contact me and consider joining on my committee to help protect your favorite place.

Thanks to All, Bruce

bruce.whitcher@corva.org

Still not easy Being Green

By Norm Lenhart

Matters of Perspective

As I write this column, the anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attack draws near and my thoughts wander to my daughter in Iraq. Funny how time flies.

To make a long story short, it seems a little girl who once waited for her old man to get back from the Baja peninsula so he could fill her head with tales of Trophy Trucks and tacos, grew up somewhere along the way. Somewhere in there was a drive to graduate early and fulfill her life-long desire to join the United States Air Force. After graduating tech school training, she went to work as a jet mechanic on the F-117A Stealth fighter prior to the plane's retirement.

So when Daddy's little over-achiever decided to volunteer for a stint of ...ahem...'security duty' ...in the war on terror, you can imagine I was a bit concerned.

The conversation (condensed version) went something like this...

"Its gotta be done Dad. We fight them there or we fight them here."

That's true there little Betty Badass...but uh...Newsflash! you're a mechanic, not a Marine...

"Hey, you taught me the whole 'do the right thing cause its the right thing to do' bit, remember?"

Damn me for teaching the kid how to frame an argument.

So where am I going with this bit of proud fatherhood? Glad you asked.

There are a lot of off-roaders over in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and other hot spots around the dirtball right now doing the VooDoo that they do so we can continue enjoying this sport of ours, among other somewhat more important things. No, I doubt there has been order issued from the Pentagon mentioning us directly, but it certainly falls under that whole 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness' idea they (at least used to) teach us about in school.

Surprisingly, one of the little known facts about off-roading as a 'sport' is that it was pretty much created by veterans returning home from WWII, taking their friends and family out camping and running around in surplus army jeeps and such. Now history, as is its wont, repeats. Except this time, the men and women who currently fight and sometimes die to maintain the experiment in freedom that is the United States of America, are coming home to a land where whining little pissants who detest our very existence continue doing everything they can to herd us into the ever-growing population pens called cities. And then, of course, they whine some more that the cities are polluted. The shameful part is that we continue, like obedient little sheep, to let it happen.

What are we afraid of? That we might 'offend' someone by standing up for ourselves and telling Gaia's deciples to sit down and shut up? Afraid of doing a bare minimum of research and voting for politicians who aren't beholden to the great green machine? Personally, I'm more afraid of telling my daughter and her fellow American soldiers, our protectors, that...

"Err....sorry. While you were over there getting shot at, blown up, maimed and sweating your unmentionables off, I was too busy lazyscaredofahippie or just flat didn't care enough to take a few minutes every so often to help make a difference and ...well...your favorite trail? Its kinda ... closed now... Sorry."

Our men and women in uniform are currently in harms way to defend our land. Women like my daughter. Men like your son or perhaps your brother. So are they going to defend it only for us to stand back and let some deodorant-challenged dirt worshiper from the Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity come in and lock it up in the name of some supposedly endangered plant or animal? It's a choice we have to make. Now.

Some would call such a declaration, overblown divisive rhetoric.

I'd simply call it the way things really are.

THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL REPORT

by Jim Arbogast

On Tuesday September 9th we had our monthly our Southern Board conference call, with Ed Stovin (Grants), George Paniagua (Legislation), Jeff Leonard (Clubs), Scott O'Connell (Secretary) and myself. Guests included Jim Woods, Wayne Berg, Katherine Kelsey and Bud Schick.

Topics of discussion included the upcoming Sand Sports Super Show that will held at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa September 19-21 and the Off Road Expo that will be at the LA County Fairgrounds in Pomona on October 3-5. Both are high profile shows drawing tens of thousands of Off Roaders. We have a booth that needs to be staffed at each show with volunteers. No experienced required, but a desire to help and have fun. Give us a call, we would like to hear from you.

Our Show/Expo Coordinator Dick Moon has informed us that after seven years in being our coordinator, he is stepping down after the October ORE. So we are seeking a good solid volunteer who would like to step up and become our coordinator. This would involve 4-6 shows per year, all in Southern California. This is a fun volunteer position for the person who likes people, off-roading, the industry and of course supporting CORVA. Give us a call or e-mail me.

Norm Lenhart is back! We also talked about the enjoyment of reading Norm's article, "Still not easy Being Green" in the recent September issue of our ORIA. We're hoping to have more Lenhart articles. Norm has an uncanny ability to clearly articulate what's the extreme environmental anti-access movement about, their hypocrisy and agenda.

At the conclusion of the meeting it gave me great pleasure to read an interview from an industry publication (Dealer News Magazine) of our President Jim Woods who educates and serves the public through his business Simi Valley Honda who he jointly owns and operates with his wife Roberta who doubles as CORVA's Treasurer. What a great article that hopefully will stimulate others in the industry to step up and become proactive. Hopefully we'll be able to share excerpts of that article with you.

Your Southern Board is gearing up for our Southern Jamboree in Cal City September 26-28. We are hoping for good weather, a good turn out and lots of fun. jim.arbogast@corva.org

WINDMILLS AGAIN A POSSIBLITY IN LARK CANYON

by Ed Stovin

A few months ago you might remember an article I wrote saying that the consideration for putting windmills in the San Diego County BLM OHV area, Lark Canyon, had been removed. Since then, the windmill company appealed that decision, so the BLM has reopened the issue and held an open comment period. I commented again on behalf of CORVA. This time I did a little more research and found a group called the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative (<http://www.nationalwind.org>). This is a large collaborative organization that, among other things, sets guidelines for issuing permits for windmills. In the document about permitting is a section on recreation, health and safety. To quote them "Public Health and Safety, Setback requirements – whether part of a formal regulatory process or self-imposed by project developers for operational considerations – provide an adequate buffer between wind generators and consistent public exposure and access. Changes in larger turbine technology and design limit access to operating equipment." The BLM has said that windmills will not effect recreational access to Lark Canyon. This document suggests otherwise and I fear that if windmills are placed in Lark Canyon, OHV access could be in jeopardy!

You might remember that these type of windmills cost about \$5 million each and can generate \$1 million a year in income. I worry that the windmills would take precedence over recreation and, should a conflict develop, recreation would loose. After all, what is more important, our nations energy needs, or a hobby?

I also commented on the fact that windmills can and do fail. There are many reports of windmills catching fire and breaking apart. Lark Canyon is an area prone to wild-fires. The last thing we need is a windmill starting a wildfire!

Even worse, I found out that the company who wants to put the windmills in is not even an American company! Iberdrola is a windmill company based in Spain. So, the BLM wants to let a foreign company put windmills on US public land to generate electricity and send the profits to another country? I hope some common sense prevails and this visual degradation and threat to our recreation can be stopped.





EDUCATIONAL NEWS

BY DAN EGER

RESPECTING CLOSURES

We have all run in to this. You are going down your favorite trail and all of the sudden there it is, ROAD CLOSED! What? It was open last month. I didn't hear about any "land use issues" or lawsuits. Well believe it or not, there are many reasons that the steward's of our lands we recreate on close areas, and they are not always unreasonable. We may or may not agree with the reasons however but we must obey the rules and laws that influence the areas we ride in. This means that when you run across that closed sign you must obey it. The sign was put there for a reason. What you need to do is talk to the local agencies that oversee the area and find out why the area was closed and what you can do to help. The point is that if we don't respect these closures, the agencies overseeing these areas have no choice but to put up gates or close down sections even further into our riding areas. Eventually, if the problem gets out of hand, they may even have to resort to closing entire riding areas. Is it really worth losing an entire riding area? Please respect all trail closures. Riding closed trails will not help to get them opened, it will just help to put up the gates and barriers to keep them closed.

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I thought it would be a good time to remind all of us about this. Recently there has been a series of trails temporarily closed due to the fires in California. Many of these were closed to assure evacuation routes were kept clear and for the safety of the people in the area. There have been rumblings in the off-road community about these closures. CORVA works with agencies in control of our riding areas to help minimize closures that impact our recreation. We are not involved in putting up signs closing our trails, but we do support the agencies who install these regulatory signs because we all must uphold the law. The alternative is to have nowhere to ride other than maybe a few closed courses, and I don't think anyone wants that.

BLM Johnson Valley Public Information Meetings To Be Announced

The Partnership for Johnson Valley (www.pfjv.org) have received advanced notice that the Twentynine Palms Base Expansion Withdrawal Notice will be published in the Federal Register. That notice will include the announcement of two BLM public information meetings to discuss exactly what the withdrawal means, explanation of terms, study timeline, etc.

Those two meetings are 'tentatively' scheduled for October 23 & 24. Locations and time to be announced, but they will most probably be held at LARGE facilities in towns at the east and west ends of the base.

Scoping meeting dates will also be announced shortly, these meetings will probably happen in the late November/December timeframe, and they have been told that there will be at least three. So mark your calendars now and save these dates.

CORVA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Here are the main projects that CORVA is involved with at this time. Please cut this form out and mail with your donation to:

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THE NORTHERN REGIONAL REPORT

by Kyra

Northern California has many diverse groups accomplishing positive results for OHV recreation this month, beginning with a DEIS release in Tahoe Forest, followed by an open house regarding the one-vehicle length rule, multiple user group collaborative actions and for a finale, the family orientated CORVA Northern Jamboree and Northern Elections.

The Forest Service Route Designation Project moves forward with the release of the Tahoe Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) this month which will allow off-roaders the opportunity to have a say in the management of these valuable and historic public forestlands. Once again CORVA is facilitating volunteer NEPA and comments training in partnership with Friends of Tahoe Forest Access (FOTFA), a local multi-OHV-user group coalition. Over 30 dedicated 4x4 and motorcycle clubs and individuals donated funds and resources to make these trainings possible. Email commentsproject@corva.org for more information.

The Recreation Outdoors Coalition (ROC) in the far North of the state has taken to heart the axiom ‘Those who come to the table make the decisions.’ ROC keeps ten north state counties current and informed about recreational issues while requesting the counties’ support for recreation in their local forests by:

- Passing a county ordinance designating select unpaved roads for mixed use.
- Have the county inform California Highway Patrol (CHP) and US Forest Service (USFS) Region 5 (California) as to its intentions regarding OHV use.
- Request that USFS Region 5 allow Forests to continue historical OHV use by allowing mixed use on maintenance level 3 and 4 forest roads.

“This has been a very successful project with every county contacted supporting this request.” Sylvia Milligan, ROC Chair affirms. To start similar actions in your county contact ROC at 530-365-4732 or smilligan4732@sbcglobal.net

A multiple user group work party near Grass Valley, CA will highlight collaboration and acceptance of multiple use while moving a non-mechanized trail on October 11th. “[Motorcyclists are] helping these other groups to maintain their trails, showing our cooperation in sharing and maintaining the whole area. We all want to work together. We all need to get along.” said motorcyclist Scott Rabeneau, Trail Boss of Nevada County Woods Riders (NCWR). The final outcome provides a safer experience with fewer highway crossings, enhanced user experience, and highlights the collaboration of motorcyclists, bicyclists, equestrians, and the Forest Service. To lend a hand with this endeavor email Kyra at kyra@corva.org

The grassroots “No One Vehicle Length Rule” ad-hoc committee is hosting an open house on October 8th at Placerville Library 6-8pm. The focus is the gathering of petitions and obtaining Congressional intervention with the Forest Service regarding the oppressive ruling affecting all disbursed camping in the Eldorado National Forest. The rule limits vehicle camping to 1 vehicle length off the trail or road, resulting in a dusty, dangerous and degraded camping experience. “Because of the way the FS is classifying everything, anyone that goes off the road is an OHV user” says Claudia Ball of Backcountry Horsemen. Contact Ms. Ball at claudia55ball@yahoo.com for more information.

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Full Page (7 1/2" x 9 1/2")	\$480	\$870	\$1,560
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The Friends of El Mirage Present

The 4th ANNUAL El Mirage Fall Cleanup

AN EVENT TO HELP PUT TRASH IN ITS PLACE

At El Mirage Cooperative Management Area

Saturday October 25, 2008

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. sharp at the Visitor Center located on Mt. View Road.

Work begins at 9:00 a.m. sharp and ends at 12:30 p.m. sharp.

Free BBQ lunch at 1:00 p.m. at Visitor Center

Come early: For a \$3.00 donation you can have a pancake breakfast with eggs, juice, sausage and bacon!

Friends of El Mirage, 75 Colusa Rd, El Mirage, CA 92301
Information: 760-252-6000

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ No. in Party: _____

Affiliation: _____

YES, send me information on becoming a Friends Member

Directions from San Bernardino:

Highway 15 North to Highway 395 North
Highway 395 to Rancho Rd. in Adelanto
Turn LEFT on Rancho Rd.
At stop sign turn RIGHT on Koala Rd.
Koala Rd makes sharp curve to left which is El Mirage Rd.
El Mirage Rd. to Mountain View Rd.
Turn RIGHT on Mountain View Rd. - El Mirage Rec. Area

Directions from Los Angeles:

Highway 5 North to Highway 14 to Pearblossom exit
Highway 138 East to Victorville
Highway 138 to Highway 18 to Victorville
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Turn RIGHT on El Mirage Rd.
Turn LEFT on Mountain View Rd. - El Mirage Rec. Area

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THE NEPA PROCESS AND YOU

One of CORVA's major goals is to empower its members to help keep our lands open for all. To do this you must participate in the environmental review process, otherwise the agencies are free to do as they please. Here is a primer for those who are wondering how they can be effective and be involved. Those familiar with NEPA can read the issues summary that follows.

What is NEPA? --- Everyone who uses public lands needs to have a basic understanding of the environmental review process. Any ground disturbing activity, be it simple trail maintenance or construction of an entire SVRA, must go through the NEPA process if it is on federal land. The CEQA process, a California version, applies if the project is on state, county or privately owned land. The process usually requires the following steps.

- Scoping --- In general the agency opens the process with a "scoping" period, which includes notification of the public, the definition of the project called the statement of purpose and need, and public reaction to the proposed project. Scoping is the process used to define "significant issues" that will be addressed by the environmental analysis that follows.
- Draft EIS - the key opportunity to influence the process --- Following the close of the scoping period the agency then prepares "alternatives" which are different ways of dealing with the impacts of the project on the environment. Each alternative is considered in a discussion, and a recommendation is made for the alternative that will provide the most benefit and minimize the associated impacts. This is done in a document known as the draft environmental impact statement, or draft EIS. (The state or CEQA version is the EIR or Environmental Impact Report). A period of public review then follows publication of this report. The agency must consider and respond to all public comments at this point in the process. This is the one real opportunity we have to influence the process! But public comments have to very carefully address specific aspects of the project to actually affect the outcome.
- Final EIS --- Once the comment period closes the agency may modify its approach to the project. These changes are included in the final EIS which usually includes discussion and consideration of the alternatives and selection of the agency preferred alternative. The publication of the final EIS is usually closely followed by an agency decision document called the Record of Decision, or ROD, in which the agency states which approach to the project they intend to take and gives the reasons why.
- Appeals --- Following publication of the Record of Decision it is possible for the public to appeal if it violates law, policy or regulation. Of course it is very difficult to do this because the agency has usually been very careful not to violate its own rules! Appeals usually go to the next higher level within the agency and because of this are rarely successful.
- Litigation --- Lawsuits are yet again more difficult because it is usually necessary to file the lawsuit in federal district court and the associated legal preparation by a land use attorney can be costly. But if there is a very real injustice and the appellant has carefully followed all the previous steps, litigation can sometimes be successful. Historically lawsuits by "resource consuming" parties such as OHV groups have been much more difficult to win than "resource conserving" lawsuits.

A few things to consider:

- NEPA documents must be written in plain English and be understandable.
- The NEPA process must include adequate public notice and be transparent, the outcome of the process is legally binding on the agency.
- As a member of the public you can and should participate in NEPA, it is not as difficult as it seems!

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Legislative News

So you all have been told before, that each of us need to be in contact with our elected officials. Let them know how you stand on issues and your enjoyment of Off Highway Vehicles. Here is a report from Ed Stovin who attended a recent fundraising event.

So my friend and VP of SDORC, Scott Hillier, comes over to pick up some stuff and we chat. He tells me that Joel Anderson is having a republican fundraiser tonight. I have been away and didn't hear about it until just then. Joel is a huge friend of OHV and was our OHV Legislator of the Year for 2007. So we make a call and get me invited. I get there and see Joel Anderson's district staffer, Collin, who I am friends with. Stop and say hi. I run into a bunch of SDORC directors and say hi. Then I see Bonnie Garcia, Assembly member from Imperial Valley go into another room, I have met her before and wanted to say hi, so I follow her to talk. Right off, Duncan D. Hunter sees me. He is a candidate for Congress of East San Diego County. He is excited to see me and tell me he and his brother got new dirt bikes (WR250s) and about his rides. Then, standing next to me is Scott Barnett, a political consultant and low tax advocate. He introduces himself to me and I say hi, I went to high school with you. He remembered and we chatted.

I then went to the other side where Joel was. He was with some others getting pictures taken and he saw me and had me meet the guys. One was the leading republican in the Assembly, Mike Villines and the other was the State Insurance commissioner, Steve Poizner (elected state position). I got my pic taken with them and I told Joel that I was interested in getting an appointment with him. I didn't know, but I had walked into the VIP room. Ha!!! Went in to the main room and sat down with the people from ABATE, a group that advocates for street motorcycles, then went to my table. Several people spoke, including Steve Poizner, who was very charismatic. He may run for governor 2010, they are pushing it. If he makes it, he would be very good, in my opinion. I went to the other off-roaders table and chatted with my successor from SDORC, Chuck Hattaway.

Had a good dinner and great dessert. I had my dessert and half of three other peoples. On the way out, I saw Christian Fletcher, running for Assembly in the 75th district (University City). I stopped to talk to him. He said he is going surfing in the morning with Duncan D. Hunter. I got his card and plan on hitting him up for help later. I also spoke to John McCann (Not McCain) running for an Assembly district in Spring Valley (The seat of Bonnie Garcia, who is terming out). I will probably volunteer to help him by walking a precinct and sending money. He will be in a tight race and if he wins, he will be a good friend. I rode down in a suit and tie on my motorcycle, kind of funny. What a good time! If you ever get a chance to go to local political fundraisers or event like this, please do. You can hear interesting people speak and help our cause by meeting people who can help us in our quest to keep land open for recreation.

The California League of Off Road Voters

The California League of Off Road Voters Inc. (CLORV) is a coordinating and educational umbrella organization dedicated to keeping existing off road motorized recreation opportunities open.

The newly expanded membership of CLORV Inc. includes: the American Motorcycle Association D-36, American Motorcycle Association D-37, American Motorcycle Association-National, American Sand Association, California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, California Nevada Snowmobile Association, California Off Road Vehicle Association, Friends of Oceano Dunes, Off-Road Business Association, and the San Diego Off-Road Coalition, all working together for a common cause.

In order to elect more OHV friendly candidates to state offices, CLORV has formed a state level political action committee (PAC) to endorse candidates, donate money and provide volunteers to off highway friendly legislators and candidates. This is where you come in; The organizations making up CLORV cannot donate directly to candidates. This must come from the grass roots level, YOU. Several of the races in the last primaries were won by candidates who attribute their success to the OHV community! This is fantastic, as it is these people who will remember us when they get into office. So help support our sport by completing the form to the left and sending in a donation today.

Every dollar helps, no donation is too small!

www.CLORV.org

<p><u>I WILL HELP FUND THE</u> California League of Off Road Voters POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE ID #1224019</p> <p>(661) 864-1158</p> <p>WWW.CLORV.ORG</p> <p>I AM DONATING TO THE CLORV PAC (PLEASE CIRCLE)</p> <p>\$5 \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other _____</p> <p>Please mail to: CLORV 1701 Westwind Dr Ste 216 Bakersfield, CA 93301</p> <p><small>CORVA does not and cannot legally donate to political candidates or parties Your donation is NOT tax deductible</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">"CLORV PAC"</p> <p>NAME _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>CITY _____</p> <p>ST/ZIP _____</p> <p>Occupation: Employer & Address _____</p>
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MEMBER DONATIONS

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CORVA CALENDAR

October:

- 10/3-5 Off-Road Expo at Pomona Fairplex, Website: www.offroadexpo.com
Contact: Dick Moon dick.moon@corva.org
- 10/4 CORVA Quarterly Board Meeting, 7:30pm @ Hilltop Restaurant, Pomona.
Contact Katherine Kelsey for details and dinner menu. katherine.kelsey@corva.org
- 10/18 Clean-Dezert.org Large scale clean-up in Barstow. Raffle and Free Lunch
Website: www.clean-dezert.org Contact: adam@clean-dezert.org (see page 12)
- 10/18 ASA & SDORC Dunes Information Meeting to be held at the new location
of Toyota of El Cajon, 965 Arnele Ave, El Cajon, CA 92029. For more info
Websites: www.asasand.org / www.sdorc.org
- 10/25 4th Annual El Mirage mid year clean-up. Start with breakfast 7:30 am and lunch
1:30 pm. Ribbon cutting ceremony of the new visitor center. A one day clean-up at
the El Mirage OHV area. New visitor fees will be in force starting October 1st.
Website: www.elmirage.org Contact: Ed Waldheim edwaldheim@aol.com
- 10/24-26 CORVA NORTHERN JAMBOREE, Frank Raines County Park, Patterson,
THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT! Contact: nbod@corva.org

November:

- 11/8 8th Annual Glamis Poker Run presented by the Orange County ATV club. Come
enjoy a ride in the dunes where the proceeds benefit OHV organizations. Grand
prize a portable generator provided by Mid-Cities Honda. See ad on page 19
Contact Jim Arbogast to offer checkpoint help. jim.arbogast@corva.org

December:

- 12/6-7 CORR Offroad Championships at Chula Vista. Website: www.corracing.com

January:

- 1/17 12th Annual MLK Weekend Cleanup at the Imperial Sand Dunes. Help clean up the
dunes. Registration starts at 8am. Free lunch and a prize drawing. For more informa
tion please see www.uniteddesertgateway.org or phone to 760-352-3681
- 1/24-25 CORVA TRUCKHAVEN CHALLENGE (see article on page 6)

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THE CORVA WEB SITE
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