CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

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OFF-ROADERS IN ACTION

The Heart of an Off-Roader

By Amy Granat, CORVA Managing Director

The heart of an off-roader can be compared to the vastness of the California desert, its primary quality a never-ending ability on behalf of the community to lend a hand, look out for one another and offer to help. Such has been the experience in response to the tragic accident that left a girl with so much vitality and grace, battling day after day for her life.

This past month Rachel Anne Gray lost her battle, but only after a brave effort that had been chronicled by her friends and family. Her legacy lives on in the community she brought together through love and care. Whether Rachel was a friend or acquaintance, or simply a name seen on a website, her legacy must serve to inspire all of us to transcend our everyday concerns. Her life remains a lesson to work together toward our common goals rather than stand alone. Such is the purpose of a treasured few in our community; they have the unique ability to bring us together rather than tear us apart, to remind us of the fragility of our existence while reinforcing the importance of reaching out to our fellow off-roaders.

When the call is sounded, we come together to assist in times of attack or illness, and that commonality of purpose and direction should be the defining characteristic of the off-road community. Yet we let ourselves be torn apart at times by our self-identification; by the type of vehicle we use and the reasons we travel out into the field. I have heard unnecessary put-downs of Jeep drivers by Toyota owners, and vice versa. I have attended at which dirt bikers were criticized as the cause of all the closure problems by 4 wheelers, while the opposite has also been true. But all those who strive to close opportunities to off-road travel do not differentiate between us; they do not see beyond the roads and trails we use. We are all painted with the same paintbrush. They want to stop us all from traveling off-road in any type of vehicle and for any reason or purpose.

Since our enemies are indifferent to our differences, and only see our similarities, can't we come together to do the same? Can't we, as a community, respond to the cry for help of our fellow off-roader regardless of vehicle used, or purpose for traveling off-road? I have seen the light of awareness raised as I travel around the state and talk of these issues with numerous groups. We are evolving slowly to understand that we may choose to recreate with fellow dirt bikers or 4 wheelers, or collect minerals with other rockhounders, but politically, we all belong to the same off-road family. The same off-road family that responds in time of need, must also stand together to fight the battles in our Legislature or in Washington DC. Divided by our differences we fall, but united by our similarities, we stand tall to off-road again.



Imperial Dunes Recreation Management Plan Released

By Bruce Whitcher, CORVA VP Land Use & Public Resources

A final environmental impact statement and proposed management plan for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area near Glamis was released Friday, September 7, by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The BLM analyzed eight alternatives for the popular off-highway area to address concerns raised during public hearings on draft plans released in 2010. One of the alternatives proposes less motorized vehicle use and another advocates more. The recommended option, Alternative 8, seeks to balance recreation with protection of cultural resources, wilderness, renewable energy development and critical habitat for the threatened Peirson's milkvetch, according to the BLM.

Continued on page 12

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



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Palees -

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Dag Shew shoots at April



From Interstate 15: Exit Bear Valley Rd, head East to
Hwy 18, turn right, veer left to Hwy 247,
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WHAT IS CORVA?

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Dedicated to protecting our lands <u>for</u> the people, not <u>from</u> the people."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Woods

"I Wanna Ride"

Fundraising has always been a struggle for nonprofits and that is why I always am looking for new avenues to raise money for CORVA. But last month I read about a new twist from the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy. They are asking their supporters to not spend money going to recreation parks, dinner etc., but to go to their mountains instead and send the money they would have spent on food, gas and supplies to them, the Conservancy. This is an interesting concept except there is no off road recreation available in the Santa Monica Mountains or in Los Angeles County for all that matter. So they won't be getting a donation from me. But I have another idea.

Now that the weather is cooling down and we will soon be entering our prime off-road camping season, let's all plan now to spend our money supporting the businesses where we camp. A prime example of this is the Green Tea Garden Chinese restaurant in California City. My wife and I had



CORVA President Jim Woods

the pleasure of dining there recently. You should meet Holly and her husband, two very hard workers with two kids, who have lived in Cal City for years. They are trying to make it in this economy while putting their children through college, quite the challenge. There are many other great restaurants and stores there too. If you are on the way to Jawbone, stop by the Stater Brothers Market in Mojave - they could also use your patronage. Really nice and helpful employees - many who welcome us to their neighborhoods to recreate. I know many of you ride up north near Carnegie and I am asking you to support those businesses in that area, or any other area where you do your off-roading. YOUR SUPPORT COULD MEAN THE WORLD TO THESE BUSINESSES. Believe me, I know this first hand. The Conservancy might have a good idea, but off-roaders need to help themselves. And to do this, we must support those who support the sport.

On another note, the Center for BioDiversity (CBD) just released its newsletter opposing the base expansion in Johnson Valley. They argued that the number of desert tortoises the military will kill during exercises would be large, and these numbers were falsely stated in the original EIS. They were in fact much higher. Can you imagine? In the newsletter, the CBD states they agree with off-road lobbyists and are STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE WITHDRAWAL.

Another strong comment that was made by Off Road was water quality. In the FEIS, the Marines state water quality will only be mildly affected. For those of us who love the desert, there is nothing nicer than a rainy day in the desert, and if you have ever experienced a desert flood, the water in the washes flows for many miles. After a Military exercise with live fire and 500lb-bombs, can you imagine the amount of toxic particles that will travel out of the area to the surrounding towns? Lots of loopholes and strong arguments have been brought out in the last rounds of this battle and we are not finished yet. But it is nice to know we have gotten the respect of the CBD and it is on our side. CORVA will keep you abreast of the outcome.

So when you are getting ready for the new season stop by your local Bike, Jeep or RV store that supports CORVA or any of the Off Highway activist groups. Let them know you appreciate that they support us and that you like motorized recreation on public land. Buy your tires, bumpers, suspension and supplies from them and help support the local economy. Then go to your favorite place of recreation and take the family out to dinner, stop by the local shop and get a spare lever, some oil or maybe that camping barbecue you have always wanted. And when you are all done, save a little for CORVA so we can always have somewhere to go! Because it all comes down to the fact that we just never stop wanting to go for a ride!

Thank you for supporting our economy and I hope you all enjoy our Jamborees this month!





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CORVA Land Use Resources and Public Policy Report

By Bruce Whitcher CORVA VP of Land Resources and Public Policy

AB 1478 Devotes \$20M in Hidden Funds to State Parks

California would use \$20 million found hidden in a state Department of Parks and Recreation special fund to keep all parks open under a bill approved Thursday by the state Senate. AB1478 also imposes a two-year moratorium on any parks closures. Senators passed the bill, 25-12, in response to a scandal in the parks department and sent it back to the Assembly for a final vote.

Auditors found nearly \$54 million hidden in two special funds, even as 70 parks were threatened with closure in July because of budget cuts. Most parks ultimately stayed open with the help of local governments and community organizations that contributed before the money was discovered. \$34M was identified as belonging to the OHV Trust Fund. When asked why OHV funds could not be restored from the \$34M balance, Department of Finance officials stated that "the investigation has not been completed". Members of the Committee were clearly dissatisfied with this answer. Although amendments could not be made at the hearing, there was bipartisan support for a floor amendment that would restore funds to OHV.

Late last week, Finance Department chief deputy director Michael Cohen told the Senate Budget Committee that his agency is no longer sure how much money was hidden in the OHV fund, and that clear answers would have to await the outcome of the investigations, expected to last the rest of the year. He said it also was unclear how much of that final amount would be available to spend on parks versus what has already been committed to particular projects.

"What exactly was going on with that fund is not clear," Cohen said. "Because we don't have full information on the fund, we don't think it's appropriate to make additional ... decisions based on information that may or may not be accurate."

His testimony came during debate over AB 1478, a bill by Democratic Assemblyman Bob Blumenfeld, to spend the \$20 million discovered in the State Parks and Recreation Fund. The bill was approved by the Senate on Thursday and awaits the governor's signature. It appropriates \$10 million from the fund for park maintenance projects and \$10 million as matching funds for private grants for parks. Cohen said the Finance Department has enough information to know that the \$20 million in the parks and recreation fund actually exists, and so the committee approved the bill. There was bipartisan support to amend the bill to begin disbursing the \$34 million hidden in the off-highway fund, as well. But the senators were outraged to learn there is far less certainty about these funds.

"What I don't understand is that we're okay going ahead with the \$20 million, but we have to have ongoing investigations for some months on the OHV fund," said GOP Sen. Doug Lamalfa. "Why is the OHV fund being discriminated against? It's deplorable." Lamalfa's frustration follows years of political tension over the funding for off-highway vehicle parks. The Democrat-controlled Legislature has repeatedly tapped the lucrative OHV fund to subsidize other state functions. Off-roading groups and their mostly Republican allies consider this tampering to be improper and unfair.

The OHV fund was created through the foresight of the off-roading community to establish a steady source of operating funds. The other state parks have never enjoyed such consistency. Efforts to create a dedicated fund for the 270 non-OHV parks have repeatedly failed, most recently in 2011 with the rejection of Proposition 21, which would have attached a surcharge to vehicle license fees.

The OHV fund collects money from three sources: licensing fees paid by owners of off-road vehicles, entrance fees paid at the state's eight off-highway vehicle recreation areas, and a portion of all the gas taxes paid at the pump in California. The fuel taxes bring in about \$65 million annually, representing the vast majority of money collected by the trust fund. It is a relatively large sum compared with state general fund support for the 270 conventional state parks, which shrank to \$99 million in 2012. The fund is overseen by the Off Highway Vehicle Division at state parks, which manages eight parks dedicated for use by all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts. The fund primarily is spent to operate and expand these parks, and to acquire land for new OHV parks. By law, the fund also is used to make grants to agencies for off-highway vehicle trails on other public lands.

At the end of the 2011-12 fiscal year, parks officials falsely reported to the Department of Finance balances of \$67.2 million in the OHV fund and \$15.7 million in the State Parks and Recreation Fund. These numbers did not include the \$54 million in hidden money discovered in July.

Since 1974, according to off-roading groups, \$196 million has been diverted from the OHV fund for other government purposes. Much of this money was considered loans, but very little has been paid back. Off-roading groups are bitter about this, saying it has compromised recreation access for their members.

Continued on next page

"My feeling is, the OHV trust fund has actually kept state parks out of trouble for the past 40 years," said John Stewart, a consultant for the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs. "The fact that the state now says there was \$34 million hidden in the OHV trust fund doesn't surprise me a bit. In fact what surprises me is, is that all?"

A 2009 legislative counsel opinion concluded that fuel taxes collected by the OHV fund can legally be spent on non-OHV park projects. The opinion was based on the argument that at many of the state's conventional parks, visitors must travel on dirt roads to reach trailheads, campgrounds and scenic vistas.

In the current budget year, the Legislature appropriated \$11 million from the OHV fund to buoy other parks threatened with closure and service cutbacks. Off-roading groups say they think the "hidden assets" masked another diversion of OHV funds.

"As a Californian, I feel so deceived," said Dave Pickett, Northern California representative of the American Motorcyclists Association. "I think the (hidden) money was squirreled away by parks for possible acquisition of non-OHV land." Even with the diversions, the OHV fund has routinely maintained a large balance. Managers of the division have said this was necessary to keep money in reserve to acquire land for new off-roading parks.

Yet the department has not opened a new off-roading park in 15 years. State officials maintain that finding appropriate locations has been difficult. OHV parks tend to be controversial. Potential neighbors find the noise and dust objectionable. Environmental concerns inevitably arise. "Anyplace you put it, it's going to have an impact," said Karen Schambach, state director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. "It's such a damaging activity that nobody wants it near them, and they can't get through the issues like air quality and wildlife impacts."

Pickett contends a different dynamic is often at work. The OHV Division saves money to acquire land for a new park, but the Legislature pressured by environmental groups refuses to appropriate the money for the purchase, and then "borrows" it for something else. "Every time we save up money, we're a target," Pickett said.

Even so, because the off-roading parks have revenues dedicated in the OHV fund, they are comparatively well funded. The eight OHV parks averaged \$3.5 million in operating expenses and 23 full-time employees per park in the 2010-11 fiscal year. The 270 other state parks averaged \$604,000 in operating expenses and 6 full-time employees per park.

If the ongoing investigations confirm there was hidden money in the OHV fund that is available to spend, the Legislature will decide how to spend it. But it is not clear how soon that will happen. The investigations are likely to stretch out until December, Cohen said, meaning the Legislature will not be able to allocate any surplus OHV funds until it reconvenes in 2013.

Read more at: http://www.sacbee.com/2012/09/02/4780548/numbers-on-hidden-funds-in-california.html#storylink=cpy

Legislation Designating Clear Creek National Recreation Area Announced

Legislation introduced by Congressman Sam Farr would designate a popular OHV site in central California as a National Recreation Area. This bill could help resolve the ongoing conflict between access interests and the BLM regarding the future of motorized and human powered recreation at the BLM's Clear Creek Management Area.

In 2008, the BLM issued a blanket closure of 70,000 acres to all users, even hikers, citing concerns about a public health risk due to naturally occurring asbestos. There has never been a documented case of injury despite decades of inhalation of the soils in question by humans in every conceivable activity. The BLM has been considering a highly restrictive management plan based on the alleged health concerns. California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission, San Benito County, IERF scientists, OHV groups and at least one conservation group have questioned the science and BLM's analysis.

In October of that year, the San Benito County Board of Supervisors petitioned Congress to consider designating the unit as a National Recreation Area and reinstating responsible motorized and non-motorized use there.

The bill would allow recreational access to resume under the 2005 travel plan generated through formal agency study and public input. It would also designate an adjacent portion of qualifying land with full protection as Wilderness. The bill would require a new management plan for the are to be developed within 2 years.

Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan Promotes Protection and Ecological Restoration

On September 4, 2012, Forest Supervisor, Kevin B. Elliott, released a new Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan (Monument Plan) for one of this Nation's national treasures. The Monument Plan guides restoration efforts for giant sequoia ecosystems, watersheds, habitat for old-forest dependent wildlife, and the protection of mountain communities. Regional Forester, Randy Moore, selected Alternative B and one element of Alternative E (Moses Wilderness recommendation) as the basis for the Monument Plan.

Two years of public collaboration provided the sidebars for a strategic vision for the Giant Sequoia National Monument. "The public's tireless efforts have resulted in a framework to restore and manage 33 giant sequoia groves, provide healthy watersheds, homes for unique wildlife, as well as provide spectacular recreation adventures to the American people", stated Elliott, Forest Supervisor. "Throughout this Monument Plan there is a theme of ecological restoration based on a foundation of science and a set of strong protocols."

Johnson Valley Update: Marine Corps Final Environmental Impact Statement Released, Protest Filed

Alternative 6 was selected in the DEIS as the preferred alternative and slightly modified in the Final EIS: it is the optimal alternative for the Marine Corps considering operational and environmental impact factors together. Developed in response to public comments, it was designed to preserve public access to important off-road recreation areas during periods when MEB training did not require use of those lands. The Preferred Alternative would allow for reopening to public recreation use approximately 40,000 acres of the acquisition area for ten months a year. The land would fall under management of the Marine Corps under this proposed plan. The US Marine Corps has posted the final EIS on its website at: http://www.marines.mil/unit/29palms/las/Pages/default.aspx.

Congress is expected to enact the 2013 Defense Authorization Act that will include a provision requiring the Marines to undertake a study on additional alternatives to share the land with the OHV community. The House has included the provision in its version of the bill, and Senator Dianne Feinstein intends to sponsor the provision when the Senate takes up its version of the bill, thereby guaranteeing it will be in the final law. Although the Marines have put forth their EIS, Congress must ultimately enact legislation authorizing any transfer of land from the BLM to the Marines.

The Bartlett Amendment of the National Defense Authorization Act was approved. This will require a study of the area prior to funding of the base expansion.

Amendment No. 53: Limitation on Availability of Funds Pending Report Regarding Acquisition of Land and Development of a Training Range Facility Adjacent to the Marine Corps Ground Air Combat Center Twenty Nine Palms, California

- (a) Findings.--Congress makes the following findings:
 - (1) The Marine Corps has studied the feasibility of acquiring land and developing a training range facility to conduct Marine Expeditionary Brigade level live-fire training on or near the West Coast.
 - (2) The Bureau of Land Management estimates on national economic impact show \$261.5 million in commerce at risk.
 - (3) Economic impact on the local community is estimated to be \$71.1 million.
- (b) Limitation of Funds Pending Report.
 - (1) IN GENERAL.--The Secretary of the Navy may not obligate or expend funds for the transfer of land or development of a new gate or expend funds for the transfer of land or development of a new training range on land adjacent to the Marine Corps Ground Air Combat Center Twenty Nine Palms, California until the Secretary of the Navy has provided the Congressional defense committees a report on the Marine Corps' efforts with respect to the proposed training range.
 - (2) ELEMENTS OF REPORT.--The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and shall include the following:
 - (A) A description of the actual training requirements for the proposed range and where those training requirements are currently being met to support combat deployments.
 - (B) Identify the impact on off-road vehicle recreational users of the land, the economic impact on the local economy, the recreation industry, and any other stakeholders.
 - (C) Identify any concerns discussed with the Bureau of Land Management regarding its assessments of the impact on other users.
 - (D) Identify the impact on the State of California's 1980 Desert Conservation plan regarding allocation of the Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas.
 - (E) The potential to use the same land without transfer, but under specific permits for use provided by the (such as agreements at other locations under permit from the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management).
 - (F) Any potential on other Bureau of Land Management lands proximate to the Marine Corps Ground Air Combat Center Twenty Nine Palms or other locations in the geographic region.
 - (3) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WAIVER.--In the event of urgent national need, the Secretary of Defense may notify the Congressional Committees and waive the requirement for this report.

Continued on next page

CORVA NORTHERNJAWBOREE October 26-28, 2012

FRANK RAINES OHV PARK IN PATTERSON, CA

TIME EVENTS INCLUDE: WIGGLE WORM, BARREL LOOP, QUAD CHALLENGE, PUMPKIN CARRY AND MORE!

TRICK OR TREATING, COSTUME CONTEST RAFFLE PRIZES AND MORE!!



DINNER SATURDAY NIGHT
CORVA MEETING ON SUNDAY



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR GOOD WHOLESOME FAMILY FUN. COME AND JOIN US AT FRANK RAINES PARK FOR CORVA'S NORTHERN JAMBOREE. THE PARK OFFERS FULL HOOKUPS, BATHROOMS, SHOWERS AND LOTS OF RIDING SPACE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

debra.campbell@corva.org



EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Managing Director's Report

by Amy Granat

The Many Ways You Can Help CORVA Help You

When people ask me to define CORVA, I usually do so telling them that CORVA is a politically active advocacy organization dedicated to keeping off-road access FOR the people, and not FROM the people. That, however, is not the whole story. We also seek to educate, empower and inspire off-roaders to act on their own behalf, and encourage them to get involved in the political process. We are entering an election season where important off-road issues will be decided by those we elect in November. Rarely has an election stood with issues so critical, where your vote can directly influence our off-roading future. These decisions are hard to make, but every candidate has a re-election campaign and a campaign manager who is actively recruiting every vote. Make an appointment with this individual to air your concerns about off-road rights, and have them understand why we value our motorized access. You have the power to change a candidate's mind before elected to office, which is much easier than talking to him or her once ensconced in a comfortable office in Sacramento or Washington DC. The campaign offices are located in your neighborhoods and home towns, and you will be amazed how much one individual can accomplish. Contact me if you need help (amy.granat@corva.org, or 1(800) 42-CORVA). CORVA is here to help you, guide you and educate you about the upcoming election.

CORVA is proud to announce a California Desert Land Use Seminar, to be held the day before our Southern Jamboree in Johnson Valley. So many issues are being decided right now in the California desert that will literally affect our access in perpetuity that it is time to come together to understand the issues, and understand the importance of WEMO, or DRECP, or SRP. Chances are you may not recognize one or more of these acronyms, which is the very reason you should come out and join us on October 19th.

CORVA educates, empowers and inspires people to act, which means every single one of you must vote and stay engaged if we are to win our battles. And for CORVA to continue doing what we do, we need your help in the form of memberships and donations. CORVA remains independent because we don't have corporate sponsorship, but that means every single donation counts towards our goals. This also means that every single one of you must donate for us to remain strong, and continue advocating on your behalf.

Remembering Dick Moon (1937-2012)

By Gary Parkin, Jeeping Jeepers Club President

With much sadness, the Jeeping Jeepers Jeep Club announces the loss of Off Roading's first Renaissance Man, Dick Moon. Dick took up off-roading in the early 1960's and joined the Jeeping Jeepers Jeep Club in 1965. By the mid 1970's he was CORVA's Southern Regional Director, and pulled CORVA along with him as he saw the need to unite with the Multiple Use Community. Dick was a principle member in establishing and chairing the National Outdoor Coalition (NOC), whose importance remained in CORVA's bylaws for nearly 30 years. CORVA honored Dick as "Off Roader of the Year" in 1975.

By the late 1970's Dick took action in Washington DC, meeting with Senators and Congressmen and won a televised debate with a leading member of the Sierra Club. He was interviewed by Harry Reasoner and his news crew at Mammoth Wash at the north end of the ISDRA at the outset of Senator Alan Cranston's 15 year push towards S-21. Dick hosted a significant fundraiser for NOC's lobbyist at his home and held another fundraiser to help a young Republican unseat a multiple term Congressman in central California. His efforts included nearly fifty CORVA members from Southern California, who carpooled and joined many more from the Western Ski Association to walk every precinct in the district. Due to his political influence, Dick was also invited to and attended President Ronald Reagan's inauguration in Washington DC.

By the mid-80's Dick returned to his love of jeeping. In 1998 a new CORVA Board member was asked by the CORVA BOD to look up Dick and the Jeeping Jeepers Jeep Club at their annual Thanks Giving Weekend run to Mammoth Wash. This person's passion reignited the fire in Dick who had recently retired from the LAFD as one of its three Arson Investigators. A new era began, as he became active with CORVA for another ten years.

Dick saw CORVA's need and created the Show Coordinator position for the numerous Off Road trade shows. He managed that position for approximately ten years and oversaw nearly sixty shows. Additionally, Dick donated \$2,500 to advertise CORVA's Off Road & Recreation Expo in 2003 at Victorville in the papers and on local radio.

During this new era, Dick became active in precinct walking, phone banking and stuffing envelopes for several important political races. He attended numerous agency meetings and presentations to various off road clubs.

Dick Moon contributed greatly to the cause of off-roading, and will be greatly missed. Dick is survived by Vicki LePenske (Michael), Debbie Cambonga (Anthony), grand children Cody, Desiree, Haley, Keaton and his loving girlfriend Sue Ralston.

Educational News

by Ed Waldheim - VP Education

Knowing Where to Ride

Our off-road riding season is upon us now. Boating, jet skiing, and traveling to visit friends are now a thing of the past, and the kids are back in school. But now the real fun begins as we start heading to the trails on our Public Lands.

There is a lot of new information for old timers and first timers alike. Our Public Lands are not open to do whatever you want to do. You now have to know the land designation of each area in which you ride; whether they are open areas, limited use areas with "Stay on Designated Trails" signs, or wilderness.

Fortunately, the California Trails User Coalition (CTUC) and The Friends of Jawbone are way ahead of the curve here, as they have been providing maps for routes in these areas. They have a total of 8 mapped regions now, from Oceano Dunes to Needles, from the I-10 San in Bernardino to Bishop, and just about everywhere in between. They are currently working on maps for Palm Springs and the gap between Sequoia and South Inyo.

Now what do these maps tell you? It is very simple: if roads are marked with a green line, you are in luck, this is a route for your Green Sticker vehicle. If the route has a light blue, black, or red marking, any street license vehicle can go on those routes. Actually they can go on the entire green route also. But for the purpose of this article I am highlighting my comments for Green Sticker vehicles. The back of the maps contain the points of interest, emergency numbers, and other historical information that you can use to make your visit enjoyable.

"Stay on Designated Trails" is the motto you all must remember when you ride on public lands. All limited trails are designated routes, but not all routes are signed. It is the responsibility of the riders to know where they are. There are official maps available for free at the US Forest Service and the BLM. Our CTUC & Jawbone maps do not show all legal routes, but they are very helpful for navigating the trails.

We are proud to say that the US Forest Service has a good signing system. The BLM, for the most part, also has signing, but they are more dispersed with large distances in between. At the off road areas in Jawbone, Rands, El Paso and Red Mountain, every trail has been signed, and with their map, you can follow the trails easily without getting lost, as the maps precisely match the ground routes.

As far as the closed trails, those that do not have signs, they are closed to all off road use. Regardless of how enticing they look, do not be tempted. We have made it easy in Jawbone, Rands, El Paso and Red Mountain areas, where red signs designate the trails closed to the public. In other words, we went the extra mile to make sure you do not get into trouble for being on an illegal trail.

Another great resource for riding is the new website www.owlsheadGPS.com, developed by The Friends of Jawbone with grant money from the Green Sticker program. Visit this website to download the routes mentioned above from Jawbone and other areas. More will soon be added. You can down load this to your GPS and if you happen to go off route it will show you. We are trying hard to make it easy for you to stay on designated trails and enjoy your time off-roading.

You can visit us at the upcoming Pomona Off-Road show on October 6th to 7th. Look for the Jawbone/El Mirage and CORVA Booths. We will have all our maps there. You can also order them on line at www.jawbone.org, or visit the Jawbone Visitors Center, or El Mirage Visitors Center (or their website at: www.elmirage.org). The California City Police Department has maps available, and of course you can get them at the BLM and US Forest Service offices. They can also be found at the California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC) office at 3550 Foothill Blvd. Glendale, CA 91214 or www.ctuc.info.

Continued from Page 1

Imperial Dunes Recreation Management Plan

The documents include a point-by-point comparison of the various alternatives. Alternative 8 (Proposed Plan and CDCA Plan Amendment, preferred alternative) provides for management of each resource and its use by establishing a balance between authorized resource use and the protection and long-term sustainability of sensitive resources.

Copies of the plan and statement can be reviewed at the BLM's California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, and online at www.blm.gov/ca/elcentro. For copies on a CD-ROM or for more information, contact Greg Hill at 951-697-5395 or <a href="https://green.gov/gr

Protests will be accepted from September 14 through October 14. The BLM's record of decsion will be issued after that.

<u>Sage Grouse, the Little Bird Who Puffs up and Struts Around, Much Like a Politician</u> By Shirley Leeson

What does a little bird have to do with access to public lands? This bird is being suggested for endangered species designation. Why should it effect YOU? Because every time something like this happens, recreationists lose ground in the struggle for access to public lands.

What do you know about the sage grouse? It is going to be the next spotted owl headache, but on steroids. Go to your search engine and you will find an interesting bird. You may recognize it because pictures of it have been shown during mating season when the male gets all "puffed up" and struts around, much like a politician. As the name implies, it stays close to the ground and lives in or near sagebrush, and as a result has many predators, including coyotes, crows, ravens, egg-eating varmints, and many others.

The strange part is, these birds live in large numbers in at least eleven western states, so why are environmentalists trying desperately to have the U.S. Fish and Wildlife put these birds on the endangered list? We can only guess, but the result of their success would mean closure of the habitat area. Next, a buffer zone will be added to ensure they are protected, and finally the whole area would be closed as has been done in the past for the good of whatever they are trying to protect.

This group of environmentalists has decided that the sage grouse is the next "spotted owl." You all remember what happened when the "save the spotted owl" campaign became popular. It actually closed down most of the lumber industry and devastated the economies of rural wester communities of the United States, all for the good of an owl.

I am warning you now because more federal land will be lost to recreation if we do not act. We cannot afford to have any more land put into Wilderness or "protected lands" for various specials interests, as very little land remains available for off-road use. Be vigilant. Watch your local papers for town meetings requesting input on sage grouse population in your area. You might see something like "Sage Grouse Conservation Scoping." In addition, please let us know so we can get the word out. Rockhounders and recreationists are not the only ones who will be effected, as hunters and especially ranchers will also feel the impact. We are all in this together. The Governors of Idaho and Utah have created special task forces to combat this proposed threat to close lands. If the states act and have a "sage grouse plan" in place, the federal government is less likely to step in and create a sweeping mandate covering all areas of the western states where sage grouse hide.

As a side note, I will finish telling the story of the spotted owl. After environmentalists could no longer blame the logging industry for the decline in the spotted owl population, they found that another owl called the barred owl had taken over the spotted owl territory and shoved the poor spotted owl out. So much for saving an endangered species. We must make sure history does not repeat itself with the sage grouse.

Lucas Off Road Expo - Volunteers Needed!!

CORVA will be represented during the upcoming Lucas Oil Off-Road Expo October 6th and 7th at the Pomona Fairplex. (See the flyer on page 5). Volunteers who donate a minimum of 2 hours of their time to working with our esteemed Board of Directors will receive free admission to the event.

A BIG CORVA THANK YOU to all our members for their participation! Please contact Wayne Ford at: wayne.ford@corva.org or Linda Wucherpfennig at: linda.wucherpfennig@corva.org for details.

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Here are the main projects that CORVA is involved with at this time. Please cut this form out and mail with your donation to: CORVA 1500 W. El Camino Ave. #352 Sacramento, CA 95833-1945	Legal Fund Lawsuit against Forest Service Reopening of Clear Creek Area Funding the CA Desert Legal Bills Funding work at: Other Area:		
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Summer's End Brings about Fall Fun

By Terry Work, CORVA VP Administration

This has undoubtedly been an enjoyable summer. I had the opportunity to take several mini vacations with friends, spend time with my grandsons, and go to my high school reunion (Taft for those of you wondering). I renewed some long lost friendships and unfortunately lost some friends (rest in peace Dick Moon and Warren Schwarm), but altogther, summer was a success.

In off-roading news this summer, there has been an ongoing battle for land use in Oceano (Pismo to us diehards) and Johnson Valley, work on the Sequoias, and we witnessed the grand opening of the Azusa Canyon OHV park thanks to the hard work of Mike Bishop and his great team.

This brings us to what some call the beginning of the off road season, as the cooler weather convinces people to get out more. In fact, there are OHV activities every weekend in October (either events or expos) that can free us from the summer OHV doldrums. Here are some highlights of the upcoming off roading season:

This year's Lucas Off-Road Expo at the Pomona Fairgrounds is a can't miss. I am looking forward to not only seeing the Expo, but also helping at the CORVA booth. Make sure to stop by and voice your concerns or how you would like to help.

Though I will be the first to admit that I miss beginning the off road season with the CORVA Southern Jamboree in September, this year's event on October 20th is shaping up to be a fun time, and will be a great opportunity to spend time with family and catch up with old friends, all while enjoying the Johnson Valley recreation area. Remember to get a fire permit online from the BLM.

Last, but certainly not least, is the CORVA Northern Jamboree at Frank Raines Park, which is always a great event with runs, events, costumes, a raffle, and dinner. This year the event will be held on October 27th (see the flyer for information), and I will unfortunately not be able to attend as I will be engaged in other off roading affairs. I do, however encourage all of you to make it out there, as you will not want to miss this spectacular event.

Many people believe that now that Fall is at our doorstep, it is time to continue our off-roading ventures, but really when did they stop? There is no specific season for off-roading (although it does get pretty hot out there). I believe off-roading is a year round sport. But for those of you who are more seasonal, remember that Fall is the peak of off roading, with all the shows and events held. It is time to get up and enjoy the outdoors. I hope to see each and every one of you at CORVA's events this year. You can find me at the orange booth.

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10/6-7 Off Road Expo at Pomona Fairplex, visit www.offroadexpo.com for details, (see ad on page 2)

10/20 Southern Jamboree at Johnson Valley OHV Area (see ad on page 5)

10/26-28 Northern Jamboree at Frank Raines OHV Park Patterson, CA (see ad on page 15)

November:

10/10 OMC Off Road Holiday Season Food & Toy Drive Off Road Show in Banning (see ad at bottom of page)

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