



California Off-Road Vehicle Association  
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Pending Approval February 26, 2018

## MEETING MINUTES

California Off-Road Vehicle Association

Board of Directors Meeting Conference **January 22, 2018 7:00 PM**

**Phone Number: (712) 775-8968 • Access Code: #104206**

- I. **Call to Order** - 7:05 PM
- II. **Roll Call & Welcome Guests:** Managing Director Amy Granat, Board members: Vinnie Barbarino, Bruce Brazil, Ken Clarke, Bob Ham, Lori Lewis, Mike Moore, Ed Stovin, Bruce Whitcher, Jim Woods and Roberta Woods. Guests: Scott Johnston, Butch Meyner, Sara Moog, Ed Waldheim and Terry Work. Absent Board members: Chad Clopton, Diana Mead, and Clayton Miller... [Ten attending BOD members].
- III. **Review Agenda, modify as necessary**
- IV. **Minutes from previous BOD meeting:** Moved and Approved as provided.
- V. **President's Report – Ken Clarke** called roll. A quorum was in effect. Guests were welcomed. Moved to approve the Minutes from prior meeting. Ken then reviewed his report. Suggested we add the Annual Meeting to the Agenda. (See Ken's Report Attached) Ken mentioned that CORVA and OHV access has achieved several wins or positive outcomes for motorized recreation. Ken asked why off road industry has not offered support for CORVA. Ken asked the Board to investigate all business options that may want to support CORVA, especially if attending the King of the Hammers event in Johnson Valley. Ken thanked the BOD and all land use volunteers for all their work.  
Ed Stovin commented that perhaps CORVA should find a person to bring in business partnerships and receive a commission for doing so. He also suggested that business associates are good for donations to our events. Ken commented that the position for VP Marketing hasn't been filled in a long time because it may be more responsibility than a volunteer can be expected to handle. Bob Ham suggested taking the conversation into a marketing committee. Ken will establish a committee to discuss options and Ed Stovin would like to be involved in the group.
- VI. **Legislative Reports**
  1. **Managing Director's Report – Amy Granat** (See Attached Report) Amy reviewed her report. She mentioned Jay Chamberlain and his involvement with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. They will decide what policy will look like with the Forest Service. The State Water Control Board is looking at changing the criteria of operations on land located in California. Last time this happened we had to have our attorney Jesse Barton involved in this. Bruce Whitcher agreed with Amy at this upsetting difficulty. Jesse now has some information to involve CORVA in a possible legal challenge. The Rubicon Trail Foundation, Stewards of the Sierra, Stewards of the Sequoia and any others that do work on Federal Forest Service land will all be involved in this as well. Amy will keep involved with this. Scott Johnston asked which agency was behind the movement and Amy replied that she believes it may come from the State Water Board. Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a STATE agency under the Natural Resources Agency, even though it has may not appear so. They don't make policy; they follow policy. The State Water Board can make policy or regulation (like CARB). The State Water Board is considering changing criteria. Bruce Whitcher suggested taking the full discussion off-line and including Scott. We have lots of work already completed on this and are prepared for the future. Bruce will be available for further discussions. Amy replied that we should remember that 60% of California water comes from the Sierra Nevada and Forest Service areas.

Amy asked the Board to please remember that we have our Annual Awards at the Annual Meeting. Nominations are being accepted now. No proposals for By-Law changes have come forth.

2. **Updates and related bills: Bob Ham** – Bob stated that some Bills are being introduced into the Legislature now. We are monitoring them all. Assemblyman Randy Vogel again introduced a Bill to return the \$10 million fuel tax to the OHV division and we are not satisfied with the proposal. We have a Bill drafted to establish the OHV Commission and what types of people can be on the Commission. We have done this for the Stakeholders group that will meet with the Dept. of Parks and Recreation that will discuss the makeup of the Commission. Now that the OHV program is permanent, the OHV Commission still has a sunset in five years. Currently it consists of older, male motorcyclists. We are hopeful we can come up with an inclusive plan this year as opposed to waiting the five years. This will help OHV have control over the Commission and we know this current Administration is familiar with OHV having worked with SB249. We need an author and hopefully this will happen. We should have a Bill number in the near future.
3. **Other Legal Updates and Alerts - Bruce Whitcher** – (See Attached Report) Bruce reminded the Board of the Federal government shut down that stopped them from working. Bob Ham stated that he heard the shut-down was over. The Grants cycle deadline is March 8, 2018 so a shut-down was not good. Los Padres has many problems at this time. Please review Bruce's report for more information.

## VII. **Finance Report**

1. **Treasurer's Report. Mike Moore** – *(Financial emailed to executive Board members.)*

Membership is up and the best since 2014/2015. Bruce W. commented that we paid out more than we took in. Our legal expenses are high although necessary. But we should watch what is happening with the possibility of the Water Board Bill. Our attorney is very reasonable but we need to keep our members informed so they continue to support us. Mike replied that our bank account has \$600.00 less than last year and our legal bills are \$22,000.00 more than last year. Donations have increased by \$32,000.00 and we still have the matching pledge campaign from IE4W coming in. Between the increase in membership and donations, we have been able to pay our legal fees. Amy requested a meeting with Mike to discuss the matching funds campaign so she has the information to do something with the web page and email our members. She wrote an article for the ORIA about our winning momentum and our lobbyist. It's time to prepare another fund raising campaign. Bruce W. believes we get excellent value for our money.

Amy made a formal request for expenses to be paid for her trip to Ocotillo Wells to a special OHV Commission meeting. She would like hotel fees and airfare. Bruce W. motioned to approve her expenses; and Board approved. Bob Ham suggested her to stay in the same hotel as the Commission.

## VIII. **Northern Report - None**

## IX. **Southern Report - Jim Woods - turned** over his time to Vinnie Barbarino.

## X. **Ongoing Business**

1. **Truckhaven Challenge Preliminary Report: Vinnie Barbarino** reviewed the event and thanked all the volunteers that helped out. This was his first event. The wind was blowing throughout the event but we survived. We had 48 new/renewal, 2 new Life members, 112 CORVA registrations and 75 non-CORVA members, 138 extra poker cards, 61 orange or gray t-shirts, 128 stickers, 26 cozies, 3 hats and only 81 event shirts. The Trailmasters cooked a fabulous dinner including their own fresh cut French fries, chili, hot dogs, hamburgers, coffee and more. This was awesome. They donated over \$1,000.00 to CORVA. We sold raffle tickets and 50/50 tickets. Income from PayPal was \$1800.00, Square \$3400.00, checks \$255.00, Cash was \$13,000.00 for a gross income of over \$18,700.00. No complaints. It was fun and a lot of work. Our raffle was fantastic. We even had a top for a Jeep. My report will be coming out in a few days. *(Vinnie's report is attached.)* Ed Stovin was very helpful with this event as well. Amy remarked the Family Fun Run has already received a raffle prize from Sun Buggy located in Nevada.

Terry Work remarked that everyone wants to come back to Truckhaven (as opposed to the Ocotillo Wells SVRA location) Now that the lawsuit is done CORVA could do a real Truckhaven Challenge there. Ed Stovin mentioned that he was discussing this with Justin Ashley, the chairperson of the TDS event, who told him that all five alternatives of the General Plan – none showed allowing events in Truckhaven. Ed did not remember for sure if this was true. He suggested we look it over carefully and CORVA may be able to work on this. Ed also says that Ocotillo Wells is a good place to hold the event. He also is going to attend the Commission meeting. When the General Plan comes out it needs to be approved by the Commission. The Vice-Chair of the Commission is Tom Lemon from San Diego. Ed will communicate with him about any problems with the General Plan. There is private property in Truckhaven where people park so we will need to work on this. Vinnie relayed his experience with having worked on the last Truckhaven event (01/20/2018) and he feels it would cost a lot of money for a permit to hold the event in Truckhaven. He has not seen any map that had designated trails in Truckhaven and the State Parks must have designated trails to issue a permit for an event. We would have to pay for our own survey of the area and have it all approved six months in advance. Terry Work remarked that all the trails on the Truckhaven side are well marked. Vinnie said no maps had any trails. Ed Stovin thinks that he can discuss some of this at the meeting of Friends of Ocotillo Wells in the coming weekend. Also, the State enforcement monitoring employees assigned to our event never came into our CORVA camp to introduce themselves. Ed will bring this up with the manager of Ocotillo Wells as well. Ed Waldheim remarked that State Parks has been doing similar behavior at Jawbone. They are making ridiculous demands of everyone camping at Jawbone. Over 100 people came into the station requesting fire permits because of the State Parks rangers. Ed sent a letter to State Parks (Brian Robertson – second in command of OHV Division) reminding him that if we are trying to be partners with them, they should act like cooperative partners. In exchange for our permit fees we should expect cooperation from them. Amy will try to arrange a conference call with State parks.

2. **Annual Meeting: Amy Granat** – Amy reminded everyone that we will be at the Jawbone Station April 28<sup>th</sup> for the meeting. Ed Waldheim will need to coordinate who will be doing what. He asks that we arrange all the details. Amy will discuss with Ed off-line and present to Board. Ed stated there is camping and a motel in California City also.
3. **State Parks Concessions** – Ed Waldheim reports that working with them along with the BLM officers is proving to be difficult. Ed wants BLM to work cooperatively with the State Parks. And as a note, Friends of Jawbone and El Mirage will not shut down because they do not use Federal money.

## XI. **New Business**

1. **Rubicon Trail Foundation (RTF) board member Scott Johnston** will be running for Friends of the Rubicon Trail Boss. He wants to try to complete prior projects. Trail work, communication and other things are now going to be his focus. Amy asked about the survey that RTF sent out. A facilitator usually is hired to help the board focus. The RTF President sent the survey outside of the Board and it went viral. The consultant will analyze the results and help the RTF at their annual summit. Amy was impressed by the survey and wants to possibly do the same with CORVA.
2. **Family Fun Run April 21, 2018** – Terry Work asked about Family Fun [Run]. Jim W. will be working on it. Roberta W. remarked that anyone else that wants to take over the event can do it. Terry was worried about the conflicting dates with the Annual Meeting so close. Roberta remarked that the date was the only one available. Ken Clarke asked Terry to wait until the next meeting for more details. *(Since this Board meeting, the Family Fun Run has been cancelled so that the Board can focus on the Annual Meeting.)*

## XII. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting by Amy, seconded by Vinnie 8:20 PM.

Next CORVA scheduled board meeting February 26, 2018

*Protecting public land for the people, not from the people, since 1970  
California's Off Road Voice for Access*

**Ken Clarke**  
**CORVA President**  
**Email: Ken.Clarke@corva.org**

Meeting Date: January 22, 2018

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Welcome to the New Year,

We have lots opportunities this year to keep our public lands open to a motorized recreational, well maybe not this week. I saw 16 requests to join the CORVA FB page today. This must be a sign that Truckhaven went well. A big thank you to the Board members and volunteers who worked hard to make this happen. As you can see from Amy and Bruce's reports we have lots of bacon in the pan. Thank Amy and Bruce.

I touched bases with 4Wheel Parts to insure we will have space at the Truck Fest in San Mateo February 24-25th. I am looking forward to this event; if you are in the area please stop by.

To tell you the truth, all of you have worked so hard this year I feel like a slacker or maybe its great leadership. One thing that's sure is all of you are extremely passionate for our chosen form of recreation with this I will exit and talk to everyone soon.

Happy Trails  
Ken Clarke

CORVA President  
Wandering Wheelers

**Mike Moore**  
**CORVA Treasurer**

January 22, 2018

**CORVA TREASURER'S REPORT**

**REVIEW:**

No major changes – December was a good month for both donations and memberships – Jan is starting out well with the preregistrations for Truckhaven as well as membership income.

Our cash position is comparable to last year despite the increased legal fees.

*Financial Statement sent to BOD.*

Mike Moore

Treasurer

**Amy Granat**  
**Managing Director**  
**Amy.granat@corva.org**  
**916-710-1950**

Meeting Date: January 22, 2018

## **MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT JANUARY 22, 2018**

Welcome to 2018!

CORVA already has a great start to the New Year with the win at Ocotillo Wells. For those that read the judge's ruling, there were a few interesting points that were made. SB249 figured prominently in the ruling, and we believe changed the course of the lawsuit. Bruce W, along with his friend (and CORVA member) Dennis Law asked for advice about appropriate wording when we were working on language for the bill. Dennis' caution against using words like 'shall' and 'will' in the bill language echoed Bob's advice, and together we all made sure the Department and Division had final say over management decisions on public land while avoiding those imperatives that can cause future lawsuits. Liz, the chief State Parks Deputy Director was thrilled to see the positive impact of SB249, because of her significant efforts in the getting that bill written. The fact that CORVA was integral to the win was not lost on State Parks. I know others had a press release out before we did, but those organizations are largely unknown to important individuals in the Division and Department.

We don't know yet that this ruling will affect the Carnegie lawsuits, because the Carnegie issues are based more in compliance with CEQA and compliance with administrative issues.

In regards to OW, State Parks will be holding the next commission meeting March 1st and 2nd at OW with a tour the first day and meeting the next. I have been invited to attend the meeting, along with Bob, because Parks and the Division want to thank all those that helped the state prevail with the lawsuit. I want to officially ask the board for the funding for the trip. Bob and I talked about the possibility of 'setting the record straight' given the opportunity, about which organization intervened first and led the way to the eventual success of the lawsuit.

This past week I was invited to participate in a conference call with Parks and all the environmental groups they consider partners. CORVA is definitely considered a partner and environmental advocates! The call was about the budget and how much money was coming to Parks, and how it would affect the maintenance backlog. OHMVR was referred to in passing, as boating and OHV will receive an extra \$1 million dollars in the budget. It's really a pittance compared to what the department is receiving overall, something like \$56 million.

OHV advocates will have another call with the department specific to our budget concerns, but CORVA was able to get a heads up in advance.

I also attended a meeting with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, in regards to their strategic planning efforts. I was the only motorized advocate asked to represent our interests. The Conservancy is a state agency that works closely with the Forest Service and educates on water and forest issues in the Sierra Nevada. The Conservancy wants to expand their efforts to increase recreation and tourism in the Sierra Nevada, and some of that expansion should benefit motorized roads and trails. One of the newest members of the Conservancy's Board of Directors is Doug Teeter, Butte County Supervisor, and one of our original students in a Comments Project workshop many years ago. It's interesting how efforts that CORVA expended years ago have come around to assist us now.

Along with representatives from the Modesto Houndsmen, I attended a meeting with the new Forest Supervisor in the Stanislaus National Forest. Jason Kuiken is from Montana, and is a bark beetle expert. But he is also on the younger side, and completely on board with signing a partnership agreement with the Modesto Houndsmen and the CORVA Foundation who will bring together all volunteers in the forest to help with maintenance and recovery from last year's damage to the roads and trails in the forest. We had an excellent meeting, and the Houndsmen were happy. Now we have to contact Tuolumne County and get their support as well, which shouldn't be a problem.

I went to the grant meeting in Sacramento, and had a good meeting with Jane from BLM. The WEMO decision will be released January 26th, and CORVA will have to make extensive comments. We've been waiting for this decision for a long time and the BLM have taken the maximum amount of time allowed by the court do this NEPA analysis.

The Forest Service is proposing some changes to their NEPA decision making process, but the criteria being proposed can be beneficial to motorized access by making decisions quicker and easier and less complicated. That would be great thing, and CORVA will be making comments. There's nothing controversial about these proposals, and this is also the initial scoping request.

This upcoming week I will be attending the Madhatters meeting on Tuesday evening and talking about what CORVA is doing.

The petition to request reconsideration for the Forest Service Travel Management Rule will be filed shortly. The administration had been busy with important efforts the past few months, and the attorneys we've been working with have been waiting for the right time to have this important issue considered.

For those that don't know, we moved house this past weekend. From 6 bedrooms in the country, Joe and I moved to a small 2 bedroom house in Sacramento. Everything is a mess, as anyone who had moved and downsized considerably will understand. We don't yet have internet, but I'll try to use the call manager through my phone connection tomorrow evening.

I saw the Square receipts from Truckhaven, and it looked like a great event. Thanks and great appreciation to everyone involved. Good job!

Please contact me with any questions, and I'll speak to everyone on the call tomorrow evening.

Amy

January –February 2018

California OHV Division - SB 249 – When the legislature passed SB 249, this marked the beginning of a process.

- CORVA will remain engaged to address remaining issues, such as the future of the OHV Commission, which is set to sunset in 5 years.
- The Parks reorganization plan, released in October 2017, will transform the entire Department, of which the OHV Division is a part.
- We need to remain engaged to assure that OHV recreation remains recognized as a legitimate activity in California and is not relegated to second class status.

Grants Workshop –

The annual Grants Workshop was held in January 2018. Staff indicated that the current grant regulations would remain in place for the time being, but that we can anticipate updated regulations in the near future.

- Public workshops will be held in early February to take input on how regulations can be updated and improved.
- A series of workshops will continue throughout 2018

### **Federal government shutdown**

Unlike the shutdown in 2013, the most recent shutdown is not supposed to have a drastic effect on government services.

In the final moments leading up to Friday's midnight deadline, Senate Republicans and Democrats were unable to agree on a stopgap funding measure to continue government services. Throughout the day Saturday, government agencies are either letting their respective staff know they must stay home, or other federally funded organizations, like the Smithsonian, are talking about how they plan to handle the shutdown for the immediate future.

### **Furloughs**

Thousands of federal employees will be placed on furlough -- meaning they won't report to work Monday. Whoever works for agencies and departments that are considered nonessential, including agencies that pay out small business loans and process passport requests, will cease to work effective immediately until Congress is able to agree on a bill for the federal budget.

### **Military**

The military is considered essential and will still report for duty. However, the troops -- including those in combat -- will potentially not be paid during a shutdown.

If the shutdown [goes on for weeks](#), about 1.3 million active-duty military will be expected to work potentially without pay. The military is currently paid through February 1.

In addition, many civilian Department of Defense employees will not be working during the shutdown, including instructors at military academies and maintenance contractors.

### **National parks and gun permits**

If you had plans for a vacation to visit any national parks, zoos or museums, some of those may be closed.

The popular panda cameras at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington [will be turned off](#), according to a statement from the Smithsonian Institution. Visitors will still be able to visit the National Zoo, as well as Smithsonian museums, over the weekend. On Saturday afternoon, the Smithsonian tweeted that its museums, research centers and the National Zoo would be open on Monday and would provide updates as to the future as soon as they knew.

The shutdown will also affect the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, meaning if you wanted a gun permit, you'll have to wait until the shutdown is over.

## **TSA, air traffic control and mail services**

Essential services, such as Social Security, air traffic control and the Transportation Security Administration, will continue to be funded even if some employees of those agencies are not. The US Postal Service won't stop serving residents -- you'll still get your mail.

## **National Monument Update**

In a speech delivered in Salt Lake City on Monday December 4, 2017, President Trump announced his intention [to sharply reduce two Utah national monuments](#) established by his predecessors.

In a move presaged by [leaked government documents](#), Trump announced that he would reduce the 1.35-million acre [Bears Ears National Monument](#), created by President Barack Obama in late 2016, by 85 percent. The president also said he would cut the 1.88-million acre [Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument](#), designated by President Bill Clinton in 1996, nearly in half.

The reductions are the culmination of a wide-ranging Interior Department review of recent monument designations and a highly symbolic salvo in a larger campaign to reverse Obama-era public land policies. The [Trump administration's recent edicts](#)—opening new mineral and oil and gas leasing opportunities in protected lands, easing drilling regulations, and rolling back habitat protections for endangered species—have met with furious opposition from conservation groups, outdoor tourism advocates, and Democratic lawmakers.

What's next for the two monuments? First, litigation. The 1906 Antiquities Act gives presidents broad discretion to protect "historic landmarks ... and other objects of historic or scientific interest," without any input from Congress. There is no language in the law, however, granting presidents the power to rescind or cut them. Presidents have made minor adjustments to monument boundaries and one major reduction: in 1915, Woodrow Wilson reduced Mount Olympus National Monument almost by half. None of those excisions have occurred in the last 50 years, however, and none have ever been tested in court.

## **State Parks director holds listening session at Oceano Dunes.**

**December 1, 2017**

State Parks Director Lisa Mangat and State Parks staff held a meeting in Pismo Beach to hear public comment that might shape a new Public Works Plan, a mechanism for long-term management of the park that could result in new programs or facilities, including campgrounds, a south park entrance, and changes to off-highway vehicle recreational activities.

What they heard from some of the more than 100 attendees represented the divergent and sometimes tense disagreements about the value of the park and the impacts of off-road vehicles to it and the community.

They ranged from off-roaders whose families for generations have bonded by riding on the dunes and aren't willing to lose an acre of grounds, to park neighbors who scolded the department for failing to protect their communities from garbage, noise and health-harming dust.

Both the dunes and Pismo State Beach operate under a General Plan put in place in the mid-1970s. The new, more detailed plan could take up to two years to develop and will need approval from the California Coastal Commission.

This will not derail another recently approved plan to enhance dust mitigation on the dunes over the next five years.

"During this process of developing the Public Works Plan, it's still very much our intent to move forward with the dust mitigation plan that's been developed," Parks Director Lisa Mangat said.

In her opening statements, Mangat demonstrated that she knew what she was in for.

"I think the issues we've got here are very sensitive. People are very passionate about the recreation here. It is part of a long legacy of many families. We recognize that we are a very important part of the air quality out in this community. We also recognize that we are a very important part of the economic landscape of this community. We also know that we have a very, very successful program when it comes to protecting endangered species such as snowy plover," Mangat said.

"For decades, we've not yet had a comprehensive conversation in the way that we're planning to do here today and initiate today."

## **"HR 1913 - Bill to reopen Clear Creek Management Area"**

### **Status Update**

**June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**This bill, originally introduced by Sam Farr, reintroduced by Jimmy Panetta, reached Senate and was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on July 12 where it awaits a hearing.**

## **Tony Tooke Appointed New Chief of the Forest Service**

The current chief, Tom Tidwell, is retiring after 40 years of service at the Forest Service. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that he would be appointing Tony Tooke, the regional forester for the Southern Region, to replace Tidwell as the new chief of the agency.

Several years ago, Tooke managed the Forest Service's new planning rule effort. The initial draft plan was totally devoid of any mention of the concept of public recreation on Forest Service land.

Recreation advocates made a strong case that this had to change, and Tooke was responsible for elevating recreation to a position of prominence in the final plan.

He brings a lot of experience to the job. Given the severe financial strain the agency is under particularly with the ongoing threat of wildfires, he has a lot of challenges ahead.

## **Forest Service Fire Budget**

**Many of you ask why there has been such a drastic reduction in recreation funds available to the Forest Service.** There have been efforts in previous Congresses to fund wildfire expenses in the same way we fund other types of natural disasters.

There seems to be a renewed effort in both the House and the Senate to pass legislation to accomplish this task. Doing so will protect the normal operational needs of the Forest Service, especially for outdoor recreation.

## **Percentage of Forest Service Budget Devoted to Fighting Wildfires**

1998	15%
2017	50%
2025	76% (Anticipated)

## **California wildfires force Congress to consider funding reforms**

Northern California's deadly wildfires have aggravated the most expensive firefighting season on record, increasing the urgency for Congress to address funding and management challenges at the U.S. Forest Service, the largest government agency that responds to wildfires.

The collective damage prompted President Trump to approve a disaster declaration for California Tuesday, unlocking federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts.

While the vast majority of the fire occurred on private land, lawmakers and experts said federal resources have been deployed to help local officials, further challenging the overstretched Forest Service.

This year has been the most expensive fire season on record for the Forest Service, with fire-suppression costs exceeding \$2 billion.

But lawmakers seeking funding and management reforms at the Forest Service say the emergency funding will only help the agency recoup firefighting money it already spent by borrowing from other accounts.

As costs have risen, Congress has tried for years to fix the funding mechanism for fighting forest fires but has failed to find consensus. The problem is that under current law, forest fires are not treated the same as other natural disasters such as hurricanes. That forces the Forest Service to take money from accounts dedicated to preventative maintenance, such as clearing underbrush.

Multiple bills have been introduced in Congress to address the funding problem, but lawmakers differ on the best path forward.

Some Republicans, led by Westerman, are pushing for any funding to be matched by forest management reforms that they say would address the root causes of fires and prevent them from being started in the first place.

Environmentalists and some Democrats oppose those reforms, arguing they weaken environmental reviews too much and encourage litigation against the Forest Service.

Wyden introduced legislation last month that would allow the Forest Service to use disaster relief funding once the original money dedicated to fighting fires runs out. It does not contain management reforms favored by Westerman.

Westerman said a funding-only approach won't do anything to stop future fires.

Westerman, the only licensed forester in Congress, has said that House leadership has assured him it favors his approach.

## Sage Grouse Review Update

### **Sage grouse review moves ahead with publication of Notice of Intent**

Last week, the Department of the Interior, with former U.S. Representative from Montana Ryan Zinke at the head, announced that the BLM will open a public comment period and assess options for [amending the 2015 plan amendments for conserving the greater sage grouse](#) in 11 Western states. Although the plan is directed primarily at oil and gas development in Wyoming and Montana, Sage Grouse also occupy large areas of Eastern California and Western Nevada which are favorite areas for OHV recreation.

The 2015 plan had many adverse effects on OHV use, including seasonal road and trail closures during breeding and nesting seasons as well as a ban on organized events in some areas.

The plan included National Forests as part of the Bi State strategy and affected the Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest, as well as adjacent BLM riding areas such as Dog Valley and the Pine Nut Mountains. The notice of intent comes on the heels of interior's review of the sage grouse plans earlier this year. During the process, the sage grouse review team consulted with various stakeholders to examine the best method of protecting sage grouse populations and identified areas where the 2015 plan amendments fall short.

Environmental groups oppose changes to the plan. Eric Holst, vice president of working lands for the Environmental Defense Fund, defended the current plan. One of his points is that agriculture and energy "would lose clear and consistent standards that they rely on to operate and to confidently plan for the future."

Agriculture and energy groups were at the table when the 2015 plan was developed. But any plan, even if it's good, can be improved. If the plan amendments can be improved in a thoughtful way, where those with boots on the ground in the West can benefit while continuing to be a part of conservation efforts, then we all win.

## **Release of final West Mojave Plan (WEMO) planned for February 2018**

### **This important route designation plan will need to balance the requirements of large scale planning projects with the use of roads and trails**

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Record of Decision has been signed and the West Mojave Plan will now be subject to the restrictions of the DRECP.

The West Mojave Plan's preferred alternative would designate approximately 10,000 miles of route as "open" to off road vehicles.

The DRECP that places a 1% "disturbance cap" on most of the California desert.

The DRECP sets aside large areas of BLM lands for conservation purposes and has the potential to restrict the use of many of the "limited use" areas, known as "L" lands.

### **Status of WEMO Planning as of 2017**

- BLM has completed a Phase I analysis (aerial map GIS review) for establishment of the ground-disturbance baseline for the WEMO planning area as described in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.
- Over this past quarter, BLM hosted three public open-house format meetings to gather public comments on a proposal to temporarily restrict use to street legal vehicles on 148 miles of routes within San Bernardino County that are maintained by the County of San Bernardino Public Works Department.
- The BLM interdisciplinary team continues work on the development of the draft supplemental environmental impact statement, including draft transportation management plans, which will be released for public review in February 2018.

## **US Forest Plan Revisions for Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests**

The Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests are revising their forest land management plans using the National Forest System Planning Rule, completed in 2012. The planning rule provides the framework for U.S. Forest Service land management plans across the nation. In May 2016 we released the Notice of Availability of the draft EIS and draft forest plans for the Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests. The Inyo National Forest expects to release a final EIS and draft record of decision in 2018. The Sequoia and Sierra National Forests expect to issue a supplemental draft EIS in 2018.

### **Overview of proposed changes to the Inyo Forest Plan for Sustainable Recreation**

The Forest Plan for Sequoia and Sierra National Forests might follow a similar direction.

Highlights of the updated sustainable recreation plan direction include:

- Plan components based on suggestions from the public.
- Better explanation of how we will use Recreational Opportunity Spectrum as a guide for recreation opportunities and experiences.
- Clearer and more cohesive plan direction for sustainable recreation.
- Addresses high-use areas where recreation will be managed more intensively.
- Establishes areas for low-density recreation that can accommodate motorized, mechanized and primitive transportation activities to support resource conservation.
- Better integration of settings, recreation management and resource management.

Meeting Date: January 22, 2018

**TRUCKHAVEN EVENT REPORT:**

This is a preliminary report for our BOD meeting. I need to confirm the total received by CORVA from PayPal for the online pre-registrations. Roberta counted all the poker cards, stickers, t-shirts and cozies. She put all the memberships in Excel ready to send to Mike and Ken Oyer for processing. She will write a check from her personal account and mail it to Mike Moore for the cash, along with the two checks we received.

Memberships (new and renewals)	48	1440.00
Life Memberships	2	600.00
Registration fees (corva mbrs)	112 x \$35.00 (includes online-pre-entry)	3920.00
Registration fees (non mbrs)	75 x \$45.00 (includes online-pre-entry)	3375.00
Extra poker cards sold	138 x 5.00 =	690.00

CORVA Store

Orange/Grey T-shirts 61 x 20.00= 1220.00

Stickers 128 x 2.00 = 256.00

Cozies 26x 3.00 = 78.00

Hats 4 x 25.00 = 100.00

TOTAL CORVA Store 1654.00

EVENT SHIRTS 81 x 25.00= 2025.00

TRAILMASTERS DONATION \$1067.00

RAFFLE \$3590.00

50/50 (375/2) \$187.00

MISC DONATIONS: \$ 214.00

**TOTAL INCOME: \$18762.00**

PayPal \$1865.00

Square 3484.00

Checks 255.00

Cash 13158.00

**TOTAL \$18762.00**

Thanks to the work of a whole bunch of people it was a success. Jim and Roberta were invaluable. As was Wayne Ford. I learned a lot and realize I've got a lot to learn still. Thank you everyone that helped out.

Mike, I will send you an expense list. It's not much. Kathy and I will donate most of our expenses. If anyone knows what past events brought in I want to know so I can compare.