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Land Use Update
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All About Access

***Please sign up for the Land Use Alerts on the CA4WDC website, www.cal4wheel.com to get the most current Land Use news**

Federal Issues

We are being bombarded on all fronts by federal initiatives and plans to take away access to more and more of our public lands. From the "America's Great Outdoors Initiative" to the proposed national monuments, it's clear that this administration is trying very hard to take away the public's right to use and enjoy public land.

***Americas Great Outdoors* IMPORTANT:** Please go to the website for America's Great Outdoors at: <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> and vote for pro-access ideas. This is a message from Chris Horgan at Save the Trails:

"Many of you have already taken the two minutes to go to the America's Great Outdoors website to vote for Ideas. Your votes catapulted Ideas like "Enhancing OHV Opportunities on Public Lands", "More Than Enough Wilderness" and "Preserving OHV Recreation Use For Families" to the top of the charts.

Since August apparently the anti access folks have been scrambling to negate all of your votes by asking their members to DEMOTE all the Ideas you thought were good and PROMOTE ideas about land closure. We need to respond to this action immediately!

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

A Report will be given to the President next month showing the Top Rated Ideas, so we have a month to Take Back the High Ground and be sure the Ideas we like are on top. We can easily do this, after all we are the majority. So now it is time to show them they awakened the sleeping giant. Please go to the site and see for yourself and PLEASE [VOTE](#) FOR (PROMOTE) any IDEAS you think are GOOD and (DEMOTE) any IDEAS you think are BAD.

Take a few minutes to VOTE NOW to turn the tables, take back our public lands to keep them open for our children. Go to the website at: <http://www.savethetrails.us/AGO-Vote.html> for a list of IDEAS to PROMOTE and DEMOTE. "

Forest Plan Revisions: This is a process that is still ongoing with the Forest Service, but has flown under the radar for a large number of people. A Forest Plan is a "snapshot" of what a forest should look like, what will be allowed and what will be forbidden, and each forest plan has to be updated about every 10 years. In most of the forest across the country, these plan are almost 15 years old, and do need to be updated. But in order to do so, the Forest Service has to issue a "rule" or guideline that all the forests across the country must follow. There have been a number of new planning rules adopted by the Forest Service, only to be struck down later in law suits filed by anti-access

organizations. The current process is the latest attempt by the Forest Service to issue a Forest Plan Revision Planning Rule. It is a very important document because all subsequent decisions in a forest have to match the forest plan after it is issued.

Initially, the Forest Service did not even include Recreation as one of the important aspects of a forest plan. Due to public outcry, recreation has been added, but is still not being considered an important aspect of the new planning rule. This is the website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule> , please follow all the links for more information. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be released in December of 2010, which will allow all of us to submit comments. The Forest Service recently released the following statement: *"We remain committed to an open, transparent and participatory rule development process, and we will post the rule concepts as soon as they are available. Additional rule concepts and selected draft rule language will also be shared at the Fourth National Roundtable."*

Let's hold the Forest Service accountable for the above statement.

State Issues

Public Lands Appreciation Day Saturday, September 25th
Please check the website at www.cal4wheel.com for a list of upcoming events

Oceano Dunes: The Air Pollution Control District of San Luis Obispo County along with San Luis Obispo County has signed an MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) with the OHMVR Division of State Parks, in which the OHMVR Division of State Parks agrees to try a number of solutions aimed at reducing particulate matter coming from Oceano Dunes SVRA over the Nipomo Mesa. It is hoped that these measures would start in the Spring of 2011.

There is a dunes clean-up scheduled for September 25th. For more information check out the website at www.yourdunes.org

Rubicon: El Dorado County Department of Transportation is sponsoring the Yellow Bandana Campaign, to educate Rubicon users about safe personal sanitation practices. It's critical that all users of the Rubicon work together to keep the trail clean. Keep a good supply of Wag Bags in your vehicle, and pack out all your waste!

There is a Motor Vehicle Use Map available for the Rubicon, indicating the legal routes of travel. Please contact the Pacific Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest at 530-644-2349 for a copy of the map.

Please VOLUNTEER with FRIENDS OF THE RUBICON

Friends of the Rubicon has a lot of work planned this year on the Rubicon, and they can use as much help and volunteers as possible. Please consider volunteering for one of the work weekends, it's an experience you'll never forget, and a well deserved cause. Upcoming dates:

- September 25 Workday - Ellis Creek to Walker Hill Drainage
 - Oct. 23 - Workday Walker Hill to Little Sluice Drainage Workday Oil Spill and Poo Party
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Forest Service

A number of National Forests are starting fire restrictions so please check before your trip to see what restrictions are in effect.

Eldorado National Forest: Not content with the lawsuit already proceeding in the Eldorado National Forest, last week PEER (Public Employees For Environmental Responsibility and CBD (Center for Biological Diversity) filed suit against the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of California State Parks over monies the division had approved for spending to repair and improve existing designated trails, and campground areas in Rock Creek. It's another example of the division being targeted for the good work it is trying to do on the ground.

The Eldorado National Forest is pending approximately 5 million dollars in money received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on on-the-ground improvements and road repair.

Lassen National Forest: The Lassen National Forest has a new Forest Supervisor, Jerry Bird, who comes from Michigan to Northern California. Supervisor bird was previously Acting Forest Supervisor on the Lassen in 2007, so he is familiar with the area and the issues in the forest. The Lassen National Forest has available the Motor Vehicle Use Map that shows all the routes that are now legal to travel.

Modoc National Forest: After the Record of Decision was overturned on appeal, the Modoc has started work on a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. This will reopen the comment period, and I encourage everyone who recreates in that forest to comment on your favorite routes.

Plumas National Forest: We expect the long-awaited release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement sometime this fall . Sierra Access Coalition is coordinating a campaign to respond to the document, please check their website at www.sierraaccess.com for more information.

Shasta-Trinity: After denying all the appeals, the next step will be the issuance of the Motor Vehicle Use Map, which is not expected for a number of months. In the meantime, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors has voted to file suit against the forest for not considering the county's concerns during the Travel Management process, along with Trinity and Siskiyou Counties.

Sierra National Forest: The new Forest Supervisor for the Sierra, Scott Armentrout, has always tried to work cooperatively with the OHV community in his past position, and I expect no different in his new position. The appeal period has ended for their Travel Management Plan, and the forest has denied all the appeals. The next step is the issuance of a Motor Vehicle Use Map, which indicates the enforcement of the decision.

Stanislaus National Forest: The forest will soon be issuing a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) indicating only those routes that are on the map are legal for travel. There is a lawsuit that has been brought against the forest by a groups of anti-access organizations alleging great misuse of the forest by motor vehicle access. Please contact me for a copy of the lawsuit.

New Report Released from the Forest Service showing access as a key component to healthy rural communities. According to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; "*Outdoor recreation is a crucial part of USDA's effort to help generate wealth and economic opportunities in rural America,*" The New National Visitor Use Monitoring Program report available here: http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/nvum_national_summary_fy2009.pdf shows that 86%

of the National Forest visits are for some form of recreation, and since we know nobody walks into a forest, we can conclude that most of those visits included some form of motorized travel on native surface roads. Additionally, only 2.8% of the visits to the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service, are visits to designated Wilderness areas. We can conclude that no more Wilderness is warranted in the state – since it seems that very few people want to visit Wilderness areas.

BLM

Good News: There is a small new OHV area proposed by the BLM 10 miles south of Fall River Mills. This is an 80 acre parcel, with plans to develop motorcycle tracks, along with facilities and picnic tables. Congratulations to the BLM Alturas Field Office for offering the motorized recreation community a new opportunity.

Lake Havasu Travel Management: Check out the Facebook page for “Save Havasu OHV Access” and help the cause. Kudos to Shane Miller, Kurt Schneider, and everyone in the area for working hard and trying to make a difference.

Clear Creek Management Area: We are awaiting the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and the Hollister Field Office has announced that they are almost finished working with the EPA to answer the vast amount of comments that they received during the comment period. They are also working to ascertain risk numbers for the alternative they have chosen using the risk models originally developed by the EPA. A draft of the Final is expected to be sent to Washington DC for review in October, with an expected release in January of 2011.

What can we do, as Outdoor Recreation enthusiasts to make sure our voices are being heard?

- Work within your local communities with your county Board of Supervisors, or with the county Board of Supervisors in the areas you like to recreate.
- Maintain a strong relationship with the land manager in your favorite riding areas
- Communicate with me, let me know your concerns, and I will relate them up the ladder to the regional Forest Service officials, and make sure that your concerns are given a strong voice