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Land Use Update
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Support HR 242! Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA2) is a tireless supporter of public access to public lands. After hearing numerous complaints from constituents and county representatives within his district, he decided enough was enough, and called the Forest Service to task. Joining him are Representatives Lungren, McCarthy and McClintock, who have all supported efforts in their districts to keep public lands accessible by the public. We have to support this bill! Link to the bill: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d112:1:./temp/~bdV3vX:./bss/> Congressman Herger's remarks in the Congressional Record; *"I have introduced legislation, HR 242, to restrict funding to the Forest Service to continue implementing the TMR in the State of California until the agency develops a more balanced and workable OHV policy."*

In contrast, two new Wilderness Bills have been introduced by Republicans. Rep. David Drier; the "Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests Protection Act" to enlarge the existing Cucamonga and Sheep Mountain Wilderness Areas by 18,000 acres, and Rep. Darrell Issa; the "Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Act" adding over 20,000 acres to existing Wilderness Areas.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's new secretarial order to set apart lands with "wilderness characteristics" has come under attack by western representatives. This would create a new type of wild-lands designation not dependent on Congressional designation, to allow.... *"Americans [to] recreate, find solitude, and enjoy the wild.* Except if those Americans enjoy or depend on motorized access! There has been considerable push-back from Representatives from the Western States that will be most affected by this new policy, and there are hopes the Republican majority in the house will take measures to block enactment.

The Desert Protection Act has been reintroduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein. It has been reported that the fast-track energy provisions have been removed from the bill as introduced last year, but that exact text of the bill has yet to be released to the public. It is yet to be determined if there is a House member that will carry the bill.

What can you do? Hold all your elected officials accountable for their actions. Talk to your friends and relatives who live in the areas these politicians represent, and let them know how strongly we disapprove of their actions.

Forest Service

Most of the forests have finished with their Travel Management plans, and this is where life can get very difficult for the average forest visitor. Some forests, like Eldorado have enacted seasonal closures, and have issued Motorized Vehicle Use Maps, (MVUM) others, like the Stanislaus and most of the other forests in Northern & Central California, will only enact seasonal closures and restrictions next year. If you are planning a trip, please call with the forest and ranger district for further information. Many times, the ranger districts have more up-to-date information. Check online for the latest MVUMs:
file:///p://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/ohv_maps.shtm

What can you do? Get to know personnel on your favorite forest. Ask a lot of questions, make sure you know what is going on.

Eldorado National Forest: The Eldorado enacted a seasonal closure as of November 23rd, and there are recent controversies regarding over-the-snow travel on the Mormon Emigrant Trail/Iron Mountain Road. This situation may change during the upcoming month as the forest holds internal meetings, but for the moment, travel over-the-snow for greensticker vehicles has been called into question. There may be law enforcement personnel looking for travel by non-highway legal vehicles on roads that have open to such travel in the past. As soon as I have verified restrictions for travel, I will post an alert on the CA4WDC website. And, if anyone has experiences either negative or positive in the Eldorado, please let me know. It is important that we log problems and let officials know what transpires on-the-ground.

What can you do? Check out www.cal4wheel.com for updates

Klamath National Forest: Many OHV enthusiasts enjoy snowmobiling during the winter months. Klamath has 135 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. To check condition, got to the home page at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath> click under the recreation link, and look for "Winter Sports".

Lassen National Forest: The Lassen National Forest has issued the Motor Vehicle Use Maps that show all the routes that are now legal to travel. Download maps at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/lassen> and click on the MVUM Map link on the right.

Modoc National Forest: The Modoc has a webpage with current information regarding OHV travel. Please click on <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/modoc/recreation/ohv/index.shtml> for conditions.

Plumas National Forest: The Plumas has released it's long-delayed FEIS/ROD . Sierra Access Coalition has copy of the decision, including the maps, available on their website: http://sierraaccess.com/ROD_FEIS.html. SAC has submitted an appeal of this decision, please check their website to keep up-to-date on their progress.

Six Rivers National Forest: "On November 29, a federal judge issued an order.....staying a travel-management related case filed by recreation groups and county officials against the Six Rivers National Forest. The stipulation noted the ongoing collaborative process on route designation and indicated the Forest expects to release a document for public review in January 2011.....the Forest will notify the parties before performing any "ground-disturbing" actions on certain roads, trails and areas". (thanks to our friends at BRC for this information) This isa 'win' for the motorized access community, as we are validated in our insistence on a "collaborative stakeholder process".

Shasta-Trinity: Has not yet released their Motor Vehicle Use Map. In the meantime, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, along with Siskiyou County is reviewing their legal possibilities. Please support Recreation Outdoor Coalition, (ROC) who is spearheading the support for the counties and their legal expenses. <http://www.roc4u.org/>

Sierra National Forest: Has not yet released their Motor Vehicle Use Map after the completion of Travel Management. The Stewards of the Sierra National Forest is working tirelessly with the Sierra, if you recreate in that area, please consider joining their efforts.

Tahoe National Forest: The Final Environmental Impact Report/Record of Decision has been released, and all the appeals filed. We are awaiting news regarding the disposition of the appeals. This decision will not be enforced until next year after the MVUM is released.

Stanislaus National Forest

From CSERC website; "On August 12, 2010, preservationist groups Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, The Wilderness Society and PEER filed suit challenging the Stanislaus NF travel plan adopted Nov. 12, 2009. The suit alleges claims under NEPA, NFMA and related law. Of particular note are claims that the Forest failed to properly define alternatives under NEPA, failed to properly analyze effects, failed to "minimize" OHV

impacts, failed to properly designate a "minimum road system" and failed to comply with applicable forest plan direction. Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) indicating only those routes that are on the map are legal for travel."

The concept of 'minimizing OHV impacts can be particularly problematic due to the question of whose definition of 'minimize' would be adopted. The suit also targets the decision of the Forest Service regarding Subpart A, the analysis of the minimum, necessary road system needed in each forest. The question of how to define 'need' has never been answered. The CA4WDC and partners have filed for Defendant/Intervenor status to ensure that our members needs, and the needs of all forest visitors who enjoy motorized access, are being represented in this lawsuit. We have formed a coalition, and need everyone's support on this critical issue.

A "copycat" lawsuit has been filed by the Center for Biological Diversity against the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Humboldt –Toiyabe National Forest We have to quash these lawsuits as strongly as we can, and defend our right to motorized access.

What can you do? Please donate to the Stanislaus Legal Defense Fund, go to www.cal4wheel.com for a link to PayPal. Support our partners: BRC, COHA, CORVA, AMA D36, Modesto Houndsmen

BLM

Clear Creek Management Area: New information has been release that the Final Environmental Impact Statement will not be released until May – June 2011. It will have a 30 day comments period the BLM will evaluate for new or different information that may affect the Record of Decision, then the Record of Decision will be released, which will start the formal appeal process. On January 26th a meeting of private property owners was held in Hollister, and the BLM is trying to warn landowners that they will lose access to their property once the decision is released.

Special Recreation Permit process: In response to a tragic accident in August of 2010, the Bureau of Land management has devised a new permit process for off-road events held in the Desert District. The new process both incorporates existing regulations, along with new stipulations on proposed events. The new stipulations include everything from a limitation to only one event that allowed per weekend, and a complete blackout against events on holiday, or 3 day weekends. BLM officials in the California Desert District have indicated they will work with organizations, and we are hoping to reach some compromises with the BLM to allow family-friendly events to continue as they have for years.

What can you do? When the final is released, support those that are appealing the decision

State Issues

Oceano Dunes: There was a very successful clean-up this past September, CA4WDC donated trash bags to the event as illustrated in this picture. Thanks to all the volunteers working hard to keep this SVRA clean and open to all. The Desert Research Institute of Reno has been hired to help State Parks and the county air pollution control officials devise dust control measure to be implemented in the spring of 2011. Measures to be implemented include the use of hay bales and revegetation of the dunes to reduce fugitive dust blowing into the neighboring Nipomo Mesa



Lawsuit filed against the OHMVR Division of CA State Parks for Over-the-snow program:

A lawsuit has been filed by CBD against the division for the Over-the-snow program just finalized by the division in December of 2010. It will up to the new Governor and

Attorney General to defend the division against this latest lawsuit, and it will be very interesting to see what happens.

Rubicon: Kudos to all who worked on the trail on the FOTR work days. The Saturated Soils Report was accepted by El Dorado county, it is a plan that satisfies one of the criteria in the Clean-up and Abatement Order served on the county by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. This plan reaffirmed that there is no need for a seasonal closure of the Rubicon! The county has also asked for an easement from the Forest Service to enable bridge projects planned for the trail to proceed, the issuance if this easement will allow long-awaited and needed work to continue.

The Rubicon Trail Foundation has announced the purchase of 317 acres of land near the Rubicon trail, fulfilling a long-term goal of the foundation. This purchase holds much promise for the future. Kudos to the Rubicon Trail Foundation for the purchase, culminating years of hard work and fundraising. Friends of the Rubicon has announced tentative dates for the upcoming year.

Annual FOTR Meeting Date: April 2nd, 2011, CA4WDC Office in Sacramento, 9 till around 3

Proposed Work Weekends Dates 2011: (with possible areas, subject to change)

*June 25-26th : Postpile to Intertie Camp at Ellis

*July 16-17th: Possibly Cadillac. Work with Jeepers Jamboree on this.

*August 20/21st: Old Sluice. This one will need a lot of coordination due to the area.

*September: 17-18th: This is open to trail needs.

*October: POR and the Poo Run, work on trail

What can you do? Volunteer for work weekends, support both RTF and FOTR

State Water Board: any day now a new Water Quality Management Plan for travel on forested roads in California will be released by the State Water Board, along with an accompaniment of Best Management Practices for a variety of activities and procedures that take place in the 18 National Forests in California. This is rumored to be not entirely favorable for access issues, and the release of these plans will signal of a public comment period. We will all have to comment on elements of these plans we find unacceptable.

*Sign up for Land Use Alerts at www.cal4wheel.com for the most current news