CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

Volume 22 Issue 6 January 2010



OFF-ROADERS IN ACTION

Clear Creek Management Area

The Draft Clear Creek Management Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is divided into six chapters, and includes maps (of the planning area and the alternatives), an Executive Summary, Appendices, a Glossary, and an Acronyms List.

This Draft Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement describes and analyzes the no action alternative, six action alternatives, and BLM's preferred alternative for managing the Clear Creek Management Area in California. The preferred alternative provides management recommendations to guide the multiple use management of all resources.

Comments on the Draft RMP/EIS will be accepted until March 5, 2010.



Stanislaus National Forest

The US Forest Service announced that Forest Supervisor Susan Skalski has signed a Record of Decision approving the selection of Modified Alternative 1 for the Stanislaus National Forest (NF) Motorized Travel Management (MTM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The decision is the result of nearly two years of environmental analysis, and extensive public involvement and discussion.

The long anticipated decision implements EIS Alternative 1 (Proposed Action), including modifications (Modified Alternative 1). The decision responds to comments received from the public and analyzed in the EIS. Modified Alternative 1 best meets the purpose and need for the action and responds to the issues of access, motorized recreation opportunity and natural resource protection. "This decision balances the various needs for motorized recreation opportunities with the need to protect natural and cultural resources," said Forest Supervisor Skalski. "This decision is the beginning step of a work in progress, and by no means is the end of our collaborative work on this important recreation activity," she said.

As described in the Record of Decision, Modified Alternative 1 will restrict public motorized use to designated National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) roads, trails, and areas. The decision does not include or affect designated Wilderness and other non-motorized areas. Skalski said that in making her decision she drew heavily upon the local knowledge and experience of users of the Stanislaus National Forest. Throughout the multi-year process members of the public have continually provided input on how a transportation system could provide better access to important recreation destinations or better protect the resources.

For more information see www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/projects/ohv or call Sue Warren at (209)532-3671, extension 321

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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 for the people, not from the people."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Woods

A Google-Earth Exercise in Common Sense

Just for the sake of understanding my message, I need you to go to your computer and Google-Earth Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area (SVRA). The area is located between old mines and a cattle pasture, with an old brick factory in the middle. For six weeks of a year, there is a small, mostly dry stream that runs through the area. Now as you look around do you see much we can disturb? There really are not any fishing areas, hunting areas, lakes or streams. No fantastic vistas, pristine wilderness – nothing anyone really wants. However, recently a judge decided to close our Carnegie SVRA because anti-OHV users claim that during those six weeks a year that there might be a bit of water in the stream, our OHV vehicles might contaminate the stream with our silt, which might contaminate the water quality downstream. Wait, let's go back to the map and look where the main water stream comes from. Above the park is the old mine, with the stream directly in the path of the old brick factory. In fact the brick factory was closed when it was flooded by what was then a river. Finally, the stream ends into a field where cows live and graze. Yes, that's correct – there are no sanitation "porta-potties" out there for those cows. They do their thing right there in the field – right next to the stream. But the judge actually believes that our OHV silt is a major contaminator to the water quality of this stream. Really? Because of this irrational thinking, we OHV users lose the entire Carnegie Area? How can this be possible?

As a matter of fact, the California State Parks OHV Division has been working with the State Water Board for many years on this issue. Their proactive approached even earned a commendation from the Water Board. Still the courts choose to side against OHV users. Please keep in mind that the State Parks OHV Division is on our side.

We as Off Roaders have over the years used huge parcels of land only to have them now removed. The California State Parks Off Road Division has done a brilliant job securing land for our OHV Recreation. While the SVRA's are not always in the most pristine or visually scenic areas, OHV users don't complain. The Green Sticker Fund was created so that our vehicle registrations pay for and maintain these areas. Volunteers donate thousands of hours to help maintain them. Still, Judges side with the anti-OHV use groups who continue litigation against us just because they don't want us to be able to go off road – ever! Their goal is to stop all OHV opportunity everywhere – period. They use "contamination issues", or plant or wildlife issues as their reasoning. Mostly however it is all based on poor science with the only real goal is to close areas – not to really save anything!

So how much worse can it get? Go to the Friends of Johnson Valley web site at: http://www.pfjv.org/alt6%20PDF.pdf You need to print the new map (see page 12) and study it closely. The big red area you see is what the military proposal will remove from OHV use – over 70% of what was the largest OHV use area will be gone! Forever! Where will the Desert racers go? Where will the hundreds of thousands of recreationalists go? What about all the promises to "Save the Hammers"? It is more like "Beat me with a Hammer." The military can take it all away and we should just stay home. After all we can play Virtual Rock Crawling on our computer. What more do we need?

When will YOU get mad enough to get involved? How long will you say and do nothing to save your OHV areas only hoping someone else will? When your favorite OHV area is closed – be it Clear Creek, Carnegie or the millions of acres of land that the new Feinstein Wilderness Bill is proposing in her new Desert Monument and Recreation Act – will you finally understand and regret that you didn't do enough to prevent this from happening? Our courts and government need to use common sense and fairness - not just poor science and one-sidedness. Our rights to OHV use areas must be balanced with the needs of the environment and the military. This is a big state and there is room for everything. But so far, there is no recognition of the rights of the OHV user except from the State Parks OHV Division. We need the Bureau of Land Management, the National Forests, Congress and the courts to do so also. Your involvement is not only necessary – it is mandatory if we ever hope to succeed.

Next month the Feinstein bill should be released and you can be assured that the CORVA volunteers will be involved - representing CORVA members. But if you're not a paid member, then your voice doesn't count! Check the web-site for the latest – and to renew your membership – or join, if you're not a CORVA member. Then go Google-Earth all the other OHV areas, such as they are, before they're all gone.

See you on the trail,



Poker R

Are you ready? Save the Date!



Poker Run

1ST PLACE

FIVE BFGOODRICH TIRES

WHERE: HUNGRY VALLEY SVRA - GORMAN, CA

Overnight camping & day use fees apply & to be paid at entry gate.

(No additional registration fees.)

WHEN: SATURDAY MARCH 20, 2010

WHAT: CORVA FAMILY FUN (POKER) RUN (5 cards per hand) ~ games at several checkpoints.

CORVA members: \$10.00 per hand Non-Members: \$20.00 per hand

BBQ Tri-Tip Dinner: \$10.00 Event T-shirts \$10.00

Raffle & 50/50 raffle Tickets available

HOW: BEST 5-CARD HAND WINS:

1st Place Grand Prize - FIVE BF GOODRICH TIRES (your choice up to 37")

Other prizes to be announced

WHY: SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF CORVA!

Don't miss this "good time" fun event - great for the entire family!

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH IN THE OFF ROADER IN ACTION NEWSLETTER - THE VOICE OF CORVA!

CORVA Land Use Resources and Public Policy Report

By Bruce Whitcher CORVA VP of Land Resources and Public Policy

Dunes Vehicles Pollute Air, Study Says

A scientific study has concluded that off-highway-vehicle riding at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area is a major cause of unhealthy air quality on the Nipomo Mesa. Larry Allen, county air pollution control officer, announced the findings of the study at a recent meeting of the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District.

"The results in the study do conclude that there is a strong link between OHV activity on the SVRA and particulate levels on the Mesa," Allen told the board, referring to Oceano Dunes. The air district hopes to release the study to the public before Christmas, Allen said. The district has also tentatively scheduled two public workshops, on Jan. 5 and 6, at the South County Regional Center in Arroyo Grande to discuss the findings.

The study does not contain recommendations about how to reduce dust pollution from the park, Allen said. Members of the air board will begin discussing what to do with the study when they meet Jan. 27.

Andrew Zilke, Oceano Dunes superintendent, said he accepts the findings of the study and promised to work with air officials to find ways to minimize the problem. "We can't ignore it," he said. "I think we are still a ways out from being able to determine what we need to do."

For example, in the Owens Valley east of the Sierra Nevada, revegetation and watering were used to control dust, Zilke said. However, it is questionable whether those solutions are practical in a dune environment, he said.

The study is likely to add fuel to the debate about the environmental consequences of off-highway-vehicle riding in the park. Nell Langford, a longtime critic of the park, said the county and air officials should use their authority to shut the park down.

"If there was ever an opportunity to protect public health, this is it," she said.

Public health impact

The study is the result of more than three years of data collection and analysis, Allen said. An initial phase of the study showed that the Nipomo Mesa, which is downwind of Oceano Dunes, has much higher particulate levels than any other part of the county and frequently exceeds state and federal health standards.

A second phase of the study sought specifically to determine whether the vehicular recreation area was exacerbating the problem. Monitoring stations compared the amount of particulates coming off parts of the Dunes where OHV riding is allowed with areas where they are not allowed.

The findings that dune buggies are contributing to the particulate pollution on the Mesa were peer-reviewed and confirmed by some of the top particulate scientists in the nation, Allen said. He told air board members that they should reject any effort to undercut the scientific validity of the findings.

• WEMO Lawsuit - Remedy Pending, Negotiations Continue

The Center for Biological Diversity and several other environmental organizations filed a lawsuit challenging the WEMO (West Mojave) and other desert BLM route designation plans in 2006. The judge hearing the case recently rendered a decision and will issue a remedy.

The ruling, by the Hon. Susan Illston of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California impacts off-highway vehicle (OHV) routes established within the last 30 years, as well as the designation of future routes.

The court held that the BLM's extensive environmental review failed to consider an adequate range of alternatives and was insufficient in its consideration of impacts to soil, cultural resources, certain plant and riparian resources, sensitive animal species, and air quality. This ruling means that the BLM must reconsider environmental impacts of OHVs on public lands in the Western Mojave region. The extent of the additional planning that will be required will be issued as a remedy.

• Court Finds Flaws in Management Plans for National Forests in Southern California

LOS ANGELES—A federal court on Sept. 29 ordered the U.S. Forest Service to change management plans covering four national forests in Southern California (California Resources Agency v. USDA, N.D. Cal., No. C08-1185, 9/29/09).

The original lawsuit was filed in February 2008 and alleged violations of the National Forest Management Act and National Environmental Policy Act and sought a court order setting the plans aside (41 DER A-19, 3/3/08). A second lawsuit was filed by environmental groups in August 2008 (Center for Biological Diversity v. USDA, N.D. Cal., C08-3884, filed 8/14/08; 158 DER A-24, 8/15/08)

Challenge Over Roadless Areas

At issue were the revised management plans for the Cleveland National Forest, Los Padres National Forest, Angeles National Forest, and San Bernardino National Forest. Records of decision on those plans were issued April 3, 2006. The California Resources Agency sought to preserve the "roadless characteristics" of the parks and accused the Forest Service of opening hundreds of thousands of acres of park land to road construction. The court found that the Forest Service's single, final environmental impact statement covering the four management plans violated the National Forest Management Act by failing to detail its review of state input on planning and land-use policies. The court cited 36 C.F.R. section 219.7(c). "This is more than a merely technical violation," the court said, "as it significantly inhibits the public's ability to understand the competing priorities of the Forest Service and the state."

• Forest Service Travel Management – (Route Designation)

The CORVA Comments Project Team is hard at work on the many Travel Management documents being published by the Forest Service. Travel Management will determine where you can ride on California's National Forests.

Travel Management actions that occurred during November and December were the announcement of the Record of Decision for Stanislaus National Forest and Modoc National Forest. Sequoia's decision is expected shortly. Thanks to Chris Horgan of the Stewards of the Sequoia a comment set was submitted on the FEIS.

The decision on the Shasta Trinity National Forest could be the worst ever for motorized recreation and dispersed camping, and there is heavy opposition in that Forest.

Little is expected to happen between Thanksgiving and the New Year holidays as federal employees usually take annual leave during this time.

The Tahoe National Forest decision has been delayed and a supplemental draft EIS will be released, probably in January 2010.

California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc. Winter Fun Festival – January 15-17, 2010

It's that time of year again. The 28th Winter Fun Festival will soon be here. As I write this, there is snow on the ground here in Auburn so just imagine what it is like up in the higher elevations. Mother Nature is being good to us right now and preparations are well underway. Our club is starting to check out the trails and get them ready. Time is running out to get your registrations in and see friends that you may only see once a year. If you want to run as a group be sure to send in your registrations together or call and let us know the names and how many for what run.

Runs will be happening Friday night through Sunday at many different levels of difficulty, as well as lots of things to do while at the fairgrounds. Grass Valley and Nevada City are filled with historical sights and many places to shop. Friday night brings the car races over an obstacle course. Seems the kids do as well or better than the adults. Friday and Saturday night will have Bingo this year as well as the Silent Auction and Raffle on Saturday after dinner.

Mike and I are doing registration again this year and remember our motto – THINK SNOW!!!!!

Contact Pat or Mike Bashore: (530) 878-1414 <u>patnmikeb@att.net</u>

Truckhaven Challenge 2010

By Steve Hewitt

Yes it is almost time for the 15th Annual Truckhaven Challenge, and your "Challenge" crew is hard at work in the prep stages!

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing studies happening with the Freeman Property Acquistion, CORVA is still forced to have our run on the south side of S-22 in Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

At present time, we have our new course under review by the state park folks, and hope to have it approved by the first of the year.

One thing we can tell you is that we are going to have another fantastic event! The trails will be great as usual, with the route(s) appropriately marked for driver/rider skill level.

Now, For new CORVA members who have not participated in this event before, here is an overview:

The Truckhaven Challenge is held in late January each year just west of Salton City, California. The terrain is primarily decomposing, dry mud hills with some sand washes and rocky sections thrown in for good measure. The area is laced with trails that are tight, twisted, and steep. In other words, a great place for off-roading!

It is in the ever-changing terrain that we mark an approximately 20 mile course (which differs each year) for the Saturday Poker Run. There will be several checkpoints. At each checkpoint participants draw a card to assemble a poker hand, and also participate in a "game of skill". The top three winners of both poker hands and game scores will win great prizes! There will also be marked "alternate routes" which will be much more difficult than the main route. These are for those really keen on abusing their vehicles! After the run we will have a BBQ dinner prepared by the Trailmasters Four Wheel Drive Club, and a drawing for great prizes donated by the off road industry.

The event is open to all OFF ROAD vehicles, but please remember not all four wheel drive vehicles are suitable for off road use. Stock SUV's, full-size vehicles, and novice drivers run the biggest risk of getting stuck/damaged and may be discouraged at the start line. Similarly, young children on 50cc-60cc bikes and ATV's may have a problem with some of the hills and technical spots. While we test the course with a high-clearance Jeep in 2 wheel drive and open differentials, this does not mean the run will be easy. We do this so we feel the course "should" be navigable by most 4 wheel drives and other OHV's. Since there is no way we can anticipate the experience level of every rider/driver, please consider this paragraph as a "heads-up". Also, since the course must be approved by the state park authorities we plan the route months in advance. However, the course can change in condition due to weather and use.

We promise you will be kept busy all day and boredom will not be an option!

Due to lack of interest, mostly because everyone wants to head home on Sunday, this year's Satellite Safari has been cancelled.

As usual, however, we will have our Sunday morning kid's games, so the younger ones will have their own fun near camp.

We already have several businesses signed up for our vendor row, and prducts for our BIG Saturday night raffle are being lined up now. The Trailmasters Four Wheel Drive Club is once again going to be putting on the killer post-poker run BBQ, with the best fixin's you could ever put on burgers or hot dogs!

Like last year, we are opening up this event to the entire OHV community. We would like all of our CORVA members to let all of their non-CORVA-member friends know they are welcome at this event! They will even be signed up as FREE 90 day members! All OHV's are welcome of course, but please keep in mind that this run will not be easy for everyone. Vehicle damage is always a possibilty. For those that do attend, a great time for the whole family is virtually guaranteed!

Please circle the weekend of January 23rd-24th, 2010 on your calendar and join us for the fun!



15th Annual

Truckhaven Challenge

January 23-24, 2010



Near Salton City, Fun for the Whole Family!

NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED! PAY AT EVENT SITE!

All OHV's Welcome!*

POKER RUN- Saturday, January 23rd

Registration- Each Vehicle \$35
Kids (12 and under) on ATV's/MC- \$15
All Prices include one poker hand and 1 raffle ticket!

PRIZES: Poker Hands 1st- \$250 2nd- \$100 3rd- \$50 Games 1st- \$100 2nd- \$50 3rd- \$25

START TIME 8:00 AM! Start line closes at 11:00 AM.

SEE MAP TO EVENT AT WWW.corva.org

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PLUS MANY MORE GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES

Course length approx, 20 miles

Alternate "difficult routes" for those willing to "GO FOR IT!"
Checkpoints have "games of skill" for more family fun and prizes! Course closes 4:00 pm

BBQ dinner (see menu) to follow Poker Run Awards and great raffle prizes donated by off road industry!

Trailmasters Club BBQ Dinner Menu

Hamburger \$3.00
Hamburger w/side of chili \$4.00
Hot Dog \$1.50
Hot Dog w/chili \$2.00
Bowl of chili \$1.00

DON'T MISS THE KIDS GAME ON SUNDAY!

Great fun for the kids before heading home.



Make sure you catch the Ocotillo Wells Interpretive Program at the event, you won't be disapointed. Incredible look at the night sky and lots of reptiles and other park creatures on display.

REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT!

4x4's, Baja's & buggies- Metal roof or Roll bar ATV's/MC's- Helmet, spark arrestor

ATV's must have whips/flags! SUGGESTED ITEMS:

First Aid Kit, Tow Strap, Spare Tire, Fire Extinguisher

Registration desk will open early Friday afternoon (January 22nd) at the event

Camping for the event is located in an easily accessible dirt area adjacent to a large dry wash. Plenty of room for motorhomes and trailers. This is dry desert camping, so no hook-ups. We will however, have portable toilets brought in for those "tenting it".



All proceeds from this event to go to CORVA's Land Use Fund!

Need more info?

Email: <u>steve.hewitt@corva.org</u> or call 951-927-8278
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For more information please contact us at: 800-42-CORVA Send an email to: advertising@corva.org

We need you to help CORVA make a difference Show your support and advertise in the newsletter



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Barstow Cleanup 2009

All that I can say is WOW! The weekend was great! I don't even know where to start. With over 300 volunteers, we filled five dumpsters and three trailer loads with trash, one dumpster with scrap metal, and 2 stake beds full of old tires found throughout Victorville, which were taken by America's Tire Company.

I would like to give a huge thank you to all of the sponsors. Without such great companies there is no way we could have hosted such a successful event with such great prizes. We had boxes full of shirts, DVDs, and gear to raffle off, and some of the best parts in the industry as well, including links, bump stops, full floater housings, and LED light bars.

The sponsors were

Camburg, BTF Fabrication, DMZ Fabrication, Enviro Lube Express, King Shocks, Offroad Expo, Offroad Magazine, OC Motorsports, PCI Race Radios, Phantom Lights, Richer Racing, Threat Motorsports, Weddle Industries, Wyotech, Baja HID, Hilton Garden Inn, Fiberwerx, <u>DezertRangers.com</u>, Race Dezert, BLM, Drive Racing, MDR Racing, Cycle Gear, Ironclad Gloves





Help Wanted: CORVA Treasurer

In May 2010, I will be stepping down as your CORVA Treasurer. As this position is not easily filled and requires some specific skills, I am beginning my search for a replacement now.

Requirements:

- Knowledge of Excel
- Knowledge of Quicken (or other computerized accounting software)
- Knowledge of Word (or other processing software)
- Experience in preparation of Financial Statements and Balance Sheets
- Experience in creation of Budgets
- Experience in preparation of tax returns (or familiar with corporate requirements)

As Treasurer, you will work directly and frequently with the Membership Chairperson, President and Vice President of Administration to reconcile all donations, membership and membership dues. You will be responsible for paying the association bills while keeping within the approved budgets. You will provide updates monthly and reconcile all accounting for monthly financial statements to be presented to the Board of Directors. You will sit on all special event committees and assist the coordination of incoming funds and the payment of all expenses. You will procure the associations insurance policies, assist with the filing of annual forms and provide the general ledger and financial statements to the association's CPA at year-end. You will keep detailed and organized records for review by the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer is voted in for a two-year term. Sorry, but there is no compensation for this position. For more information, you may email me directly at: roberta.woods@corva.org
Thanks, Roberta

Newly-proposed Johnson Valley Alternative 6

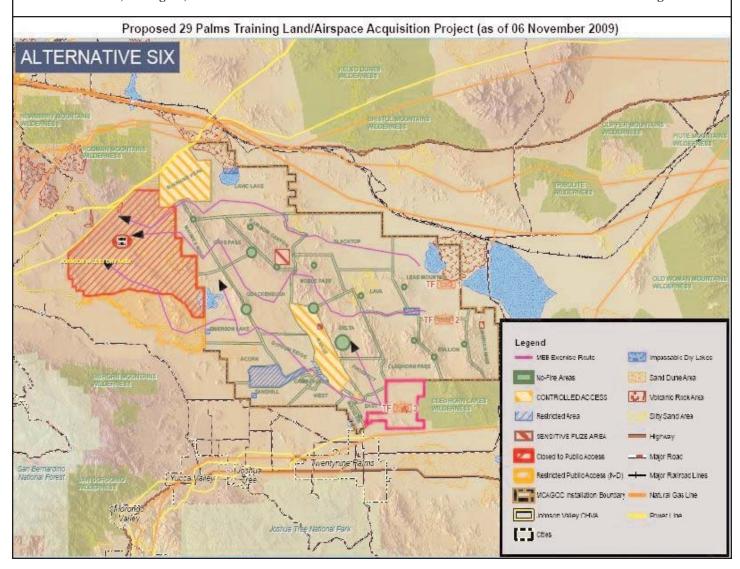
The Marine Corps continues to study reasonable alternatives for potential land acquisition and airspace establishment to meet its Marine Expeditionary Brigade sustained, combined-arms live-fire and maneuver training requirements at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California. Approximately 20,000 stakeholder comments were received on the alternatives that were presented to the public during the public scoping period held from October 2008 through January 2009.

Alternative 6 (West/South) is about 140,000 acres west/19,000 acres south. The maneuver would start from the east on the current MCAGCC base and the south study area, and the MEB battalions would converge on an objective in the west study area. Alternative Six, has been developed that accommodates public access to some of the lands in the West Study Area when Marines are not using the area for training.

No dud-producing ordinance use in 40,000 acres in the south of the west study area; this 40,000 acres would be open for public use when MEB training not required.

A range of reasonable alternatives (Alternatives One through Six), as well as the No-Action Alternative, has been finalized for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy are scheduled to publish a Draft EIS evaluating alternatives for meeting our MEB training requirements in September 2010. Following this release, there will be a 90-day public comment period.

In a brief statement, PFJV Chairman Harry Baker said that he is disappointed to see that none of the area to the east of the base was included, and again, it is the recreation lands and those lands that border the communities that are targeted.



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MARK & STEPHANIE NEWHARD	\$20.00	MERCED DIRT RIDERS	\$1,000.00
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WAVNE CRAV & SVRVI VACIJZZO	\$20.00		

\$100.00

Help us out and make a donation please see the bottom of this page
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BRIAN YOST

DESERT BILLS
BRIAN YOST \$100.00
COMMENTS PROJECT
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Forest Comments Projects Route Designation Process

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