



# Off-Roaders in Action

## 2017, volume 4

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DEDICATED TO PROTECTING OUR LANDS **FOR**  
THE PEOPLE, NOT **FROM** THE PEOPLE.

# FALL IS HERE AND SUMMER IS OVER

Ken Clarke

Fall is here and summer is over, I hope all our CORVA members and families had an enjoyable summer.

For the Board of Directors, it was a nail biter of a summer negotiating S.B. 249 and S.B. 159. The Friday before Labor Day, we believed we had amended S.B. 249 to a point at which the OHV leadership and the environmental lobby could support the bill. Over the weekend the author of S.B. 249 threw a wrench in the works. By the end of the week we negotiated the final amendments which the Assembly and Senate approved. The bill was then passed to the Governor who signed S.B. 249. What did we get? The OHMVR Division of State Parks no longer has a sunset and the Commission has a five-year sunset. What did we lose? We need to inventory the native plants in the SVRA plus do some more soil and water monitoring in the SVRAs, not a bad deal at all.

The person responsible for helping all the OHV leadership to work together on S.B. 249 was the lobbyist Kathy Lynch, who was hired by the San Diego Off-Road Coalition. Due to her efforts CORVA, the American Sand Association and San Diego Off-Road Coalition has retained Kathy for the next year to work on several issues on behalf of the OHV community.

We have prevailed in the S.B. 249 battle but the next fight has already clawed out of the swamp. Now the Central Valley Water Board is pursuing the development of nonpoint source permits to ensure regulatory compliance and water quality protection on United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed lands. Land management activities that may be regulated under

the proposed permits include: timber harvesting and vegetation management; motorized and non-motorized recreation; range management, including grazing; stream crossing replacement and upgrades; fire suppression and repair; and road system management. CORVA is already working on strategies to protect our use of public lands. California State Parks also just released their plan to re-structure our State Parks. Don't worry. The OHMVR Division is not going away, this will mainly affect how the Parks are managed.

I combined some fun with land use this summer by manning the CORVA booth at Jeepers Jamboree, Cantina on the Con and the Off-Road Expo. I enjoyed conversing with the many members of the OHV Community and had to do a lot of educating on how S.B. 249 had become a good bill after telling folks for several months it was a bad bill. It is my hope that CORVA has shown we are your best value for you land use dollars. We are really raising the bar by hiring Kathy Lynch. You may have also noticed we are expanding our presence in all forms of media to further educate the public of the benefits of motorized recreation.

All these activities are not cheap. I am donating all my expenses so that we can use your membership fund and donations to keep our lands open. Please join and donate to CORVA so we may continue our work. You can help CORVA by attending the Northern Jamboree at Frank Raines OHV area the 27th 28th and 29th there will be games, dinner, adult and kids costume contest plus dinner.

Happy Trails





## CORVA OHV ADVOCACY: EXPERIENCE + KNOWLEDGE + PERSISTENCE = SUCCESS

Amy Granat

Anyone who has argued for an important cause knows there are 3 critical elements advocates need to achieve success.

From 'The Art of War' many books have been written on military strategies that can also apply to successful advocacy. There's no particular order to criteria listed below; all have their own places in an advocate's toolbox.

The first important fact that must be understood is that no one goes into battle alone. No one person ever wins a war, a skirmish or a political battle. Therefore CORVA attacks each issue as a team, bringing members and directors together that have learned from our 48 years of advocacy. We work as a team on issues relating to off-road recreation. Two minds are better than one, three minds are better than two, and so on. CORVA brings the best and most experienced people we have to work on every issue we are grappling with at any given time.

The second important fact that must be understood is that everyone approaches a war, a skirmish or a political battle with different strengths and invariably some weaknesses. Some people are more comfortable speaking in front of large groups while others are better on a one-to-one basis. No matter what skill someone possesses, in order to achieve the best possible outcome the team has to celebrate strengths while forgiving any weakness. Depth of knowledge in your field is one of the most important strengths an advocate has to bring to the table. A successful advocate must lead with a deep understanding regarding

the issues under discussion. Knowledge leads to confidence, which can help sway others to your side of an argument. But an advocate doesn't always need to show their hand to opponents. Coming into a battle labeled an underdog can bring surprising achievements, while overconfidence can lead to a downfall.

The third important fact that must be understood is the importance of persistence while possessing an unfailing belief in what you are trying to achieve. CORVA keeps going even when times are tough! When faced with adversaries, an advocate has to stand tall and never waver in loyalty for your cause. Always bring the conversation back to issues that are important to your community, and don't take no for an answer. Persistence can be difficult to define and identify as there may be a fine line between persistence and obstinacy.

Mastering the three criteria above brings us to the formula CORVA uses on every issue facing off-roaders with state and federal agencies: experience + knowledge + persistence = success. CORVA has been working this formula with undeniable success for 48 years. Normally, CORVA keeps a fairly low profile, but with the advent of social media we want to change that paradigm. We're asking all our supporters and members to join us and share CORVA's successes and your successes as well. We have to train new advocates to come and use our formula for success to continue fighting and winning our OHV battles.

# CORVA LAND USE REPORT

October - November 2017

## **SB 249: BILL TO REAUTHORIZE CALIFORNIA'S OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE PROGRAM**

The California OHV recreation program, like many state programs, must undergo a periodic review, called a sunset review, to determine the effectiveness of the program and provide an opportunity for improvement. The OHV program has been through sunset review many times, the last time in 2007-2008, when it was given a 10 year reauthorization.

SB 249 was introduced as a bill to reauthorize the program, but for only five years. In response, the motorized recreation community very quickly assembled a lobbying team and engaged in the legislative process. CORVA representatives, along with those from the AMA, Cal 4 Wheel Drive Association, San Diego Off Road Coalition, and ORBA worked tirelessly to request amendments to the bill which removed most if not all adverse sections.

SB 249 and SB 159 have now both passed the legislature and have been signed by the Governor to become law.

We see this as the beginning of a process, and not the endpoint. CORVA will remain engaged to address remaining issues, such as the future of the OHV Commission, which is set to sunset in 5 years. Also the Parks reorganization plan 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 somehow relegated to second class status.

## **CONGRESSIONAL GRIDLOCK LIKELY TO HAMPER LAND USE LEGISLATION**

The new fiscal year begins on October 1st and the appropriations process to fund the federal government is far from complete.

Congress will have to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) to provide short term funding for federal agencies until more permanent decisions can be made on funding levels. Also looming is the need to raise the debt ceiling no later than the 2nd week of October, an issue that could be very controversial, as it has in the past.

Also scheduled to expire on September 30th is the National Flood Insurance Program. Given the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, the extension of this program will be given a high priority as will the need to increase the amount of money the program can borrow from the federal treasury in times of a national emergency.

It also wouldn't be surprised if the debt ceiling issue is also included in the CR. The Congress reconvenes on September 5, so the actual makeup of a CR has yet to be determined.

## **NATIONAL MONUMENT REVIEW**

The White House is getting ready to move on a contentious plan to shrink national monuments in the West, which could involve the redrawing of borders at several that are home to unique geological formations, rare archaeological artifacts and pristine landscapes.

The blueprint delivered to President Trump by the Department of Interior — but not yet shared with the public — represents an unprecedented effort to roll back protections on federal land.

Two large monuments in Utah and one in Oregon have already been revealed to be among those on the list for downsizing.

Zinke said in a separate statement Thursday that the plan would "provide a much needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic development, traditional uses, and recreation."

California has more monuments on the review list than any other state. The list included San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument, Giant Sequoia National Monument, the Carrizo Plain National Monument and Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in Northern California.

Zinke had earlier announced that he would be recommending no changes to another California monument on the list, Sand to Snow National Monument.

Over the summer, California Democrats at both the state and federal level defended the designations and vowed to fight any changes.

"Once designated, a National Monument becomes part of our national heritage and the birthright of all future Americans," Gov. Jerry Brown wrote Zinke in July.

The state Legislature passed a resolution urging the Trump administration to retain the protections. And California's two Democratic senators, Feinstein and Kamala Harris, also asked Zinke to leave California's monuments alone.

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# NEWS RELEASE: CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT

## BLM reduces fire restrictions within some areas of the California Desert District

MORENO VALLEY, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management California Desert District initiated Stage III Fire Restrictions last spring for BLM-managed public lands within Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, Inyo, Kern and San Diego counties.

As of Oct. 5, the District is reducing fire restrictions in select areas from Stage III fire restrictions to Stage I and II levels. This decision is being made due to the changing weather conditions.

As of Oct. 5, the following BLM-managed public lands within the California Desert District, listed below, shall be under Stage I restrictions, which means campfires, barbecues and gas stoves are allowed with a permit on all public lands within the District. Although smoking is allowed on such lands, be mindful of surroundings:

- All BLM-managed public lands in Mono, Inyo and Imperial counties.
- All BLM-managed public lands in Kern County, north of California Highway 58.
- All BLM-managed public lands in San Bernardino County, managed by Barstow Field Office and Needles Field Office.

All BLM-managed public lands in Riverside County, east of California Highway 62, within the California Desert District, shall be under Stage II restrictions, which means setting, building, maintaining, attending or using open fire of any kind, except campfires within approved fire pits and grills provided for in developed recreation sites.

Controlled flame devices such as portable stoves and lanterns with shut-off valves, using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel are allowed with a valid California Campfire Permit. Smoking is only permitted within an area that is clear of any vegetation, for a minimum of 5 feet in all directions.

The following BLM-managed public lands within the California Desert District will remain under the initial Stage III fire restrictions until enough moisture has been received this winter to significantly reduce wildfire threats:

- All BLM-managed public lands in San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles counties.
- All BLM-managed public lands in Kern County, south of California Highway 58.

- All BLM-managed public lands in Riverside County, west of California Highway 62.
- All BLM-managed public lands in San Bernardino County, managed by the Palm Springs Field Office.

A map of the fire restriction areas can be found at: [www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=a330d77fe184408ab7c3b9a8035c37fb](http://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=a330d77fe184408ab7c3b9a8035c37fb).

Restrictions for recreational target shooting within western Riverside and San Diego counties for public lands managed by the El Centro and Palm Springs-South Coast Field Offices remain in place.

For more information about BLM-California fire restrictions, visit: [blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-info/california/fire-restrictions](http://blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-info/california/fire-restrictions).

The BLM is committed to keeping public landscapes healthy and productive. For specific restriction guidance or clarification, contact the nearest field office by calling:

- California Desert District Office: 951-697-5200
- Barstow Field Office: 760-252-6000
- El Centro Field Office: 760-337-4400
- Needles Field Office: 760-326-7000
- Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office: 760-833-7100
- Ridgecrest Field Office: 760-384-5400

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any federal agency. This land is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield.

## 4X4 IN MOTION'S NIAGARA RIM POKER RUN

On July 15, 2017, 4x4 in Motion hosted a poker run on their Adopt-A-Trail, the Niagara Rim Trail, off of Highway 108. This year's theme was "Honoring Our Troops" and 4x4 in Motion did a great job of that!

When people drove into Base Camp, the area was decorated with red/white/blue items everywhere, including the member shirts. Participants were wearing shirts from various branches of our armed forces and some even decorated their camps. The Rock Pile, an obstacle that challenges the best drivers and rigs, had American flags lining the way as participants climbed the big boulder gutter.

The run is a well-organized event with a Friday night social, where participants and members can mingle, talk about rigs, trails and upgrades all while having finger food and drinks. There is also an area where kids can eat and play with RC cars along with other kid's activities.

Saturday morning, the rigs go to one of four starting locations that they were assigned. "Assigned" really means make your own groups. Basically, people wheel with their friends and they start at the four different locations to prevent rigs from waiting in line. Keeping everyone moving is the key and 4x4 in Motion

provides spotters at all the difficult parts to aid the drivers or point them in the direction of the bypasses. After a great day of wheeling, getting poker cards and visiting with the spotters, participants have time to relax back and camp and clean up before dinner.

The dinner that is included in the registration is top notch! Tri-tip, red potatoes, beans with linguica, salad, roll, homemade pickles and cobblers for dessert. Many of the ingredients were locally grown by one of the members and you can taste that 4x4 in Motion prepped the meal themselves. They even have hot dogs for the kids...and adults.

After dinner was a raffle that was of the chart. For a local club to get so many raffle prizes, of good quality, is really a tremendous feat. The members from 4x4 in Motion donate to the raffle from their own pockets, get some donations and the actual club buys a couple large prizes as well. In the raffle, even the little prizes were valued around the \$40 mark.

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**Trail Crew 4x4** won the 2016 Club of the South Award. Here is a picture of their President, Randy Worth receiving the award from CORVA's South Regional Director Jim Woods.





« Land Use Report, continued from pg. 4

But members of the congressional Western Caucus, including California Republican Reps. Paul Cook, Doug LaMalfa and Tom McClintock, urged Zinke to revoke the Berryessa Snow designation as a national monument and to reduce the size of all the other California monuments except Sand to Snow.

When he signed an executive order ordering the review in April, Trump accused his predecessors of an “egregious abuse of federal power” in their creation of some national monuments. Since that time, Zinke has been examining the 27 monuments larger than 100,000 acres established since the presidency of Bill Clinton.

Zinke has already revealed that Bears Ears National Monument in Utah is among those targeted for a significant downsizing.

The report sent to the White House also recommended reducing the size of Utah’s Grand Staircase-Escalante and Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou, according to the Washington Post.

The administration’s plan is rooted in a provision of the 1906 Antiquities Act that it argues limits presidents to protecting the smallest possible amount of land needed to preserve historic artifacts and ecologically significant landscapes. Zinke has suggested presidents have ignored the language in recent monument designations, pointing out that the average size of national monuments has grown substantially in recent decades.

“No president should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object,” said his statement Thursday.

## **HR 1913: BILL TO REOPEN CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA**

Status Update, June 20th, 2017

This bill, originally introduced by Sam Farr, and recently 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.

H.R. 1913 requires BLM to re-open and re-designate the CCMA as the Clear Creek National Recreation Area (CCNRA). The bill:

- Mandates the development of a permanent management plan, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, that specifically includes a hazards education program to inform visitors about NOA exposure and its associated health risks; creates a user fee program for motorized vehicle use and

guidelines for the use of funds collected for the management and improvement of the CCNRA

- Designates trails, roads, and other areas for OHV use to provide a substantially-similar recreational experience prior to the closure of the CCMA
- Incorporates appropriate decisions from prior applicable management, activity, or wildlife habitat management plans
- In addition, the bill also designates approximately 21,000 acres of adjacent land as the “Joaquin Rocks Wilderness Area” and releases approximately 1,500 acres known as the San Benito Wilderness Study Area back into multiple-use.

## **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)

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# PRAIRIE CITY VISITOR APPRECIATION DAY 2017

Peter Ostroskie, State Park Interpreter I

Every year many of the State Vehicular Recreation Area's (SVRA) give back to their visitors a single day to say, "Thank you for supporting their OHV Park."

Prairie City SVRA gave the day to visitors this past weekend on October 8th. Organized by park staff and many of the local businesses visitors were able to enjoy a day at the park of riding and testing their skills.

To help the experience of the SVRA, park staff were on hand to provide information about the resources of Prairie City SVRA and to answer questions about the new Oak Hill Trail. Local Business like Auburn Extreme Powersports, Metalcloak, and even Fox were at the

event talking about new products for people's safety and for upgrades on vehicles. Over six hundred people were able to enjoy their SVRA and thirty-five signed up for the first State Park held Poker Run.

The poker run was new to the Visitor Appreciation day. Participants were able to discover the park by finding four locations that had playing cards while their fifth was given to them when they signed up. All visitors seemed to enjoy the activities and while the wind was a problem, many visitors left with great prizes and even happier memories.





PRE-REGISTER IN NOVEMBER ONLINE AT [CORVA.ORG](http://CORVA.ORG) OR PAY AT THE EVENT SITE.  
**ALL OHVs WELCOME!\***

**GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES DONATED BY THE OFF ROAD INDUSTRY**

**POKER RUN - SATURDAY JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

REGISTRATION- EACH VEHICLE: CORVA MEMBER: \$35 / NON-MEMBER: \$45

KIDS (12 AND UNDER) ON ATVs/MC- \$20

ALL PRICES INCLUDE ONE POKER HAND AND ONE RAFFLE TICKET

GREAT PRIZES FOR 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE POKER HANDS AND  
 FOR 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> IN GAMES

START TIME: 8:00 AM / START LINE CLOSES: 11:00 AM

Course length approx. 20 miles / Alternate "difficult routes" for those willing to "GO FOR IT!"  
 Checkpoints have "games of skill" for more fun and prizes! COURSE CLOSES AT 4:00 PM

SEE MAP TO EVENT: [corva.org](http://corva.org)

BBQ dinner to follow Poker Run



**Ocotillo  
 Wells  
 SVRA**  
 Pre-Registration  
 opens in November  
 (See web site for details)

Trailmaster's Club BBQ Dinner MENU

<b>HAMBURGER</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>HAMBURGER W/SIDE OF CHILI</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>HOT DOG</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>HOT DOG W/CHILI</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>BOWL OF CHILI</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>FRIES</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>FRIES W/CHILI</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>

*Registration desk will open at 2 pm Friday afternoon (January 19th) at the event*

Camping for the event is located in an easily accessible dirt area adjacent to a large dry wash. There is plenty of room for motorhomes and trailers. This is dry desert camping, so no hookups. 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: [VinnieBarbarino@gmail.com](mailto:VinnieBarbarino@gmail.com) or call 714 292-3431

# CORVA MERCHANDISE

CORVA accepts donations for all merchandise listed below. Although your donation is not tax deductible, it is one way CORVA raises funds to continue to fight for off-road recreation access. When you promote CORVA by wearing a shirt or hat, displaying stickers, etc. you are helping spread the word to your fellow off-roaders. Show them you support CORVA – Order Today!!

We make the process easy, too. Order online at the CORVA Store or just fill in the items you want, mail the form with your check and we will get your order processed quickly. Once we have received your order, we will send you a confirming email so you will know when your items have shipped.

All orders are shipped via USPS. You can expect to receive your order quickly, usually no more than a week.

Thank you for helping to support CORVA. Don't forget to order extras to give along with a Gift Membership for all those off-roaders in your family! If you have any suggested items that you might want that are not listed, send us an email. We are always looking to promote CORVA!



## CORVA Merchandise Order:

- CORVA Orange Logo T-Shirt** (size: \_\_\_\_\_) \$20.00  
*Please include \$5.00 shipping* \$5.00
- CORVA Grey Bear Logo T-Shirt** (size: \_\_\_\_\_) \$20.00  
*Please include \$5.00 shipping* \$5.00
- CORVA Cozzies** (set of two) \$10.00
- CORVA Flex-fit Hat** \$20.00  
*Please include \$5.00 shipping* \$5.00
- CORVA OHV Styles Sticker** (appx. 5"x3") \$2.00
- Traditional CORVA Sticker** (appx.6.7"x3.5") \$2.00
- CORVA Stickers - Large** (appx 12" x 6") \$14.00
- NEW! CORVA California Stickers** (appx 6" x 1.5"):
  - Orange / Bear \$3.00
  - Orange / White \$3.00
  - Black / Bear \$3.00

**NEW! CORVA California & Bear Graphics Sheet** \$25.00  
Appx. 11.8" x 11.8" – Heavy Duty Graphic  
Material created for CORVA by RideAVIK

Check Enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make checks payable to CORVA)

## Ordered by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for order confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift for:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail payment and order form to:

ATTN: CORVA STORE  
1500 W. El Camino Ave. #352  
Sacramento, CA 95833-1945

Questions? Send your email request to: [CORVA.store@sbcglobal.net](mailto:CORVA.store@sbcglobal.net) (you can scan and upload your order via email too). And if you have a special request or rush order, just let us know.

Magellan...Thank you for your support.

**eXplorist® TRX7**  
The Ultimate Off-Road GPS Navigator



Explore more with the Magellan eXplorist TRX7,  
created from the ground up for off-roading.





## **SAGE GROUSE REVIEW**

Secretary Zinke announced a 60-day review of federal land management policies governing Sage-Grouse preservation efforts. The intent is to take a closer look at and recognize state and local led efforts rather than just rely upon plans promulgated by the federal government. This is potentially a major change in the approach of managing the Sage-Grouse issue and we are following it closely.

## **RELEASE OF FINAL WEST MOJAVE PLAN (WEMO) STILL DELAYED**

The 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.

This seems unlikely due to the more restrictive DRECP that places a 1% "disturbance cap" on most of the California desert. See below for more information on disturbance caps.

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 June 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.

This proposal to temporarily restrict the use of the route segments on public lands will allow BLM to analyze and determine if consistent management of these routes across the two jurisdictions is in the

public interest. The Environmental Assessment for this proposed action is currently being prepared with a decision anticipated to be issued before the end of the year.

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 January 2018.

## **US FOREST PLAN REVISIONS FOR INYO, SEQUOIA, AND SIERRA NATIONAL FORESTS**

Forest plan documents are landscape scale documents that establish a broad approach to recreation management, but without details such as route designation. The Forest plans for Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests have not been updated since the last 1980's.

These Forest Plan Revisions were due out last fall. Draft documents have been released with Alternative B listed as the preferred alternative. Alternative B does not call for any reduction in the semi primitive motorized opportunity, although there may be changes to the boundaries of areas classified as Semi Primitive Non-Motorized.

*So when can you expect the final environmental impact statement (EIS) and forest plan for these three Forests – Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia?*

The goal was to release the documents this fall, which would include a 60-day objection period. However, the Forests have shifted the release date to early 2018.

It is taking us longer than anticipated to respond to the input received. When they considered the timing of the objection period, they realized it would occur over the holiday season. The final EIS will be released and the objection period will begin in the New Year, 2018.

Inyo plans to release draft documents in the fall of 2017. Preliminary documents are now available on the Forest planning web site. Sierra and Sequoia will release draft EIS documents in 2018.

# COMFORT ZONE

Vinnie Barbarino

"I hate doing this. I'd rather be wheeling my Yota. I'd rather be hitting some single track on my KTM. I'd rather be burning up the dunes on my quad."

That's what I tell them. But am I doing any of those things? No, I'm standing in this booth at the Sand Sport Show promoting CORVA. Next weekend I'll be at the Off Road Expo in Pomona doing the same thing. I hate it. I'm no salesman that's for sure. I'm definitely out of my "Comfort Zone". I tell them that the reason I do it is because I want my kids and grandkids to be able to do what I love to do. I hope you feel the same way. If you're reading this you probably do. So join me by stepping out of your comfort zone and do something to help save your favorite riding area. You can contact me or any one on the Corva board of directors. Our email addresses are on the back page. You can join us on one of our monthly conference

calls. They're on the 4th Monday of the month. If that seems a little too much out of your comfort zone you can just listen in. I promise you won't be disappointed. Whatever you decide to do, please do something. If you just sit back in your comfort zone and do nothing then chances are nothing will get done.

One last thing. I stepped out of my comfort zone and volunteered to be the chairperson for the upcoming "Truckhaven Challenge" on January 20, 2018. We haven't been able to have one for two years now because of a petition to list the flat tailed horned lizard as endangered. That issue is settled "for now" so mark your calendars and let's get into our comfort zone and go out to the desert for this fun event. See you there.

— Vinnie B (I'm OHV positive)

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« Niagara Rim Poker Run, continued from pg. 7

The big prizes were between \$300-\$800 and were a variety of items: ARB 50qt. freezer/fridge (\$800), portable Ready Welder (\$600), Power Tank (\$500), Winch (\$500), LED off road light s(\$350), LED off road lights (\$350), Power Tank (\$500), Warn Epic Accessory Kit (\$450), etc...Once again, how does a local club pull off such a good raffle?

Finally, to top things off, 4x4 in Motion had a special raffle for any veterans who were at the run. They asked for any current or retired service members to come up front so all the participants could give them a hand. They were asked to state their name, rank and branch in what became a proud moment for the men and women who served. People in the audience hand lumps in their throat as each service member introduced themselves, in a voice and manner as if they were still serving. It was awesome! After, they each received a free raffle ticket and were in a drawing

for an \$1899.00 Warn 8274M Winch, a \$500 red 15lb "Package A" Power Tank and a \$500 blue 15lb "Package A" Power Tank. Basically it was almost a \$3000 dollar raffle for 16 people. To top things off, Power Tank donated 20 Power Tank Tire Repair Kits for anyone not winning one of the veteran big prizes. For the record, these tire repair kits are very handy when out on the trail. I have seen people stuff 5-10 of these plugs into a torn sidewall, air up and get back to their trailer. Pretty nifty.

I did see SxS's at this event. Though most rigs were Jeeps and trucks, the SxS drivers seemed pretty happy with the event and even mentioned that they wanted to come back. It looks like July 13-15, 2018 will be the date for 4x4 in Motion's Niagara Rim Poker Run. If you haven't been, it is something that you should put on your calendar. I would recommend SxS's with lower gearing as there are many rocky areas to climb or bypass.



# BLM REDUCES FIRE RESTRICTIONS WITHIN SOME AREAS OF THE CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT

MORENO VALLEY, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management California Desert District initiated Stage III Fire Restrictions last spring for BLM-managed public lands within Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, Inyo, Kern and San Diego counties. As of Oct. 5, the District is reducing

fire restrictions in select areas from Stage III fire restrictions to Stage I and II levels. This decision is being made due to the changing weather conditions.



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## SB 249 AND SB 159 BECOME LAW ON OCTOBER 3

Sacramento, Calif. –In 1982, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 2397 that created the Off Highway Motorized Vehicle Recreation Program within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

On October 3 Governor Brown signed SB 249 and 159 into law. This means that after 35 years, the OHMVR Program is now a permanent part of the California Department of Parks and Recreation dedicated to providing safe and sustainable off-road opportunities in the state.

Prior to the introduction of Senate Bill 249, the California Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Program was set to expire at the end of this year. When Senate Bill 249 was first introduced to reauthorize the Off Highway Motorized Vehicle Recreation program at the start of this legislative session, the California Off Road Vehicle Association and virtually all of our allied off-road enthusiast and business allies objected to a majority of the bill's content. The same coalition of allied off road organizations introduced our own bill in the Assembly that would have made the OHV program permanent and made no other changes, but that bill was quickly tied up in a legislative "suspense file" that effectively killed it for the year. That action left us only one remaining way to keep the OHV Program from expiring on December 31. We HAD to fix SB 249 and then work to get it passed.

Due in large part to the hard work and actions of CORVA officers working closely with our allied off-road organizations and lobbyists for the off-road community, key legislative leaders listened and instructed the bill's author and its' sponsors to engage in a collaborative negotiation process and don't come back without a workable solution.

CORVA and our many allied off road advocacy groups worked closely with one other to demonstrate the solidarity of our community as we insisted on taking out the mean-spirited and punitive language that would have resulted in destroying California's off highway recreation program that has been held out as a national model in the rest of the country. It took months of negotiating but thanks to our solidarity in resisting any language that would harm the beneficial aspects of this model OHV program we were able to present our arguments in a logical manner and provide factual information to demonstrate that many of the new proposals in the earliest versions of the bill were only inserted to give certain anti-OHV groups the upper hand in their lawsuits against the state's OHV program. In the end we convinced the legislature that

our program was a positive one for the state, for the users, and for the environment, and it deserves to be made permanent.

Turning this bill around from its' original punitive and excessively OHV-hostile posture to one that became a positive bill with reasonable enhancements to stewardship requirements of the OHV Division that are in the final version of the bill was no easy task. Probably the oldest adage in the lobbyist profession is "you don't amend a bad bill". In our case we were stuck with the proposition that this was now the only bill still alive that would be able to keep the OHV program alive as a part of state government. We had no choice but to defy conventional wisdom and push to force the legislature to take out the negative and punitive aspects of the bill and by using common sense and FACTS rather than hyperbole and intentional misrepresentation of our sport, we were able to turn this monstrosity around to a point where it was actually something we could wholeheartedly support.

The final version of the bill that was sent to the governor on September 15th permanently establishes the OHV Program in California and removes virtually all of the objectionable new studies and burdensome regulations that caused us to object so strenuously to the original versions of the bill. And most importantly of all, we were FINALLY able to remove the objectionable sunset on this program that has existed since 1982 and which the so-called "environmentalists" would use against us every 5 or 10 years as an opportunity to pile on new restrictions and regulations to our program as a condition of allowing it to continue. Our program has achieved the permanent status it deserves.

Thanks to **CORVA**, our allies, and their lobbyists from the AMA and its' districts; the ASA; CA 4 Wheel Drive Association; San Diego Off Road Coalition; BRC; our industry allies; the motorcycle dealers and off-road businesses; and numerous other national and regional allies we are now able to celebrate a PERMANENT OHV Program in California going forward. Special thanks are also due to State Parks Director Lisa Mangat and her exceptional staff who worked so hard to help make this happen.

WE APPLAUD THE GOVERNOR'S ACTION OF SIGNING SB 249 and its' companion bill SB 159 into law.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

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## OFF-ROADERS IN ACTION

Volume 29 Issue 4

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CORVA Board Conference Call  
4th Monday

### Get in Touch

Want to contact CORVA? Send an email to [info@corva.org](mailto:info@corva.org) or call 916-710-1950.

## 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, and snowmobiles.

We work with land managers for responsible off-highway vehicular access and recreation opportunities. Secondly, 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 and OSV 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 as well as at the county and local levels. 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.

For more information, contact Amy Granat, Managing Director: [amy.granat@corva.org](mailto:amy.granat@corva.org) or 916-710-1950

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