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## Land Use News and Updates

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### ANNOUNCING OHV CAUCUS DAY, SACRAMENTO APRIL 17<sup>th</sup> The world is run by those that show up, and not wait to be asked

CORVA is very pleased to announce **OHV Caucus Day** to be held April 17<sup>th</sup>, in Sacramento. Along with District 37, Dual-Sport we invite you to come to learn about issues facing OHV Access in the morning at the Hyatt Regency, to be followed by visits members of the legislature in the afternoon. Donations are welcome to offset the cost of the room.

In the evening, we have been invited to the **California Legislative Outdoor Sporting Caucus Dinner** to be held at **The Sutter Club**, starting 6pm. There is a cost of \$60.00 per person for this dinner, and a limited amount of space. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

### LAND USE SEMINAR – CORVA FAMILY FUN DAYS – MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>

With everything going on, it's hard to keep track of what's going on, where we stand, and what off-roaders can do to change the closures plaguing off-road areas. Come have fun with CORVA at Family Fun Days, Hungry Valley SVRA, Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, Aliklik Campground.

### State Of California

It's hard to believe that we are still awaiting word on who will fill the role of Deputy Director of the OHMVR Division of State Parks. The OHV Community responded in amazing fashion when asked to contact Governor Brown and staff, and let them know we support the reinstatement of Daphne Green as Deputy Director, but he has failed to respond. This week CORVA sent out alerts requesting more support letters be sent to the Governor, thanks to everyone that has responded. Oftentimes we forget to keep on working with our elected officials. It's not a "one step" process, it is continual.

**Time to Comment on the Grant Applications, ending April 2nd:** The grant process only works if the public comments on the grant applications. Here are the steps involved:

1. Public comments should be submitted to both the applicant and the OHMVR Division by emailing the contact person listed on the preliminary application and copying the OHMVR Division at Reach the OLGA home page: <http://134.186.25.134/User/home.aspx>
2. Left hand menu, choose "Review Preliminary Applications"
3. Top of the page, look for words "\*Grant Program", click on drop-down menu in middle
4. Click box next to GCA-11 - 2011/2012 Grant And Cooperative Agreements Program
5. Go to "Find" button at the bottom of the page, this will bring up all the applications
6. Click the agency that you wish to review by clicking on the "+" sign under the Projects column
7. You will be able to see each section by clicking on the "paper clip"

8. This action will bring up the screen below. Note: The contact person can be found in the General Application Requirements section.
9. The screen shown will provide all the information provided in the preliminary application
10. Public comments should be submitted to both the applicant and the OHMVR Division by emailing the contact person listed on the preliminary application and copying the OHMVR Division at [ohvinfo@parks.ca.gov](mailto:ohvinfo@parks.ca.gov).

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

**Clear Creek Management Area:** CORVA met with Jim Kenna and other BLM staff at the BLM State Office in Sacramento to talk about Clear Creek, and the lack of OHV opportunities in both the Hollister Field Office and Mother Lode Field Office districts. Not only is there no way to mitigate the loss of opportunities due to the closure at Clear Creek, but all other OHV opportunities in the Central and Sacramento Valleys have been closed during the last 5 years. The BLM has a mandate given by Congress for multiple use, and we have to demand off-road access.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement/Resource Management Plan is due to be released, possibly as early as April.

**Desert Advisory Council (DAC):** Congratulations Kim Campbell Erb, rockhound activist, for her appointment to the Desert Advisory Council. There are 4 subgroups in the DAC, Dumont Dunes, Imperial Sand Dunes, Special Recreation Permit and West Mojave Route Network Project subgroups. CORVA's own Ed Waldheim has recently been appointed to the West Mojave subgroups, and Wayne Nosala and Clayton Miller continue admirably on the Special Recreation Permit subgroups. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who serves on the DAC and subcommittees, thanks for giving your time to make sure the California desert stays open to off-road recreation.

Meetings are open to the public, if you love the desert, get involved!

**Johnson Valley OHV Area:** The Marines have announced that the Final Environmental Impact Statement will be released on April 27<sup>th</sup>. This will begin an 'objection' period, for all those that wrote comments on the DEIS, this is your time to take a read the FEIS and see how the Marines responded to all your comments. By law, the Marines have to respond to all the comments submitted, but it is up to us to do the research, and object if your comments haven't been responded to appropriately. This may be the basis for future legal action, I can't underestimate the importance of following through with your comments.

### **Forest Service**

**Forest Plan Revisions & Sierra Cascades Dialog Sessions:** The Forest Service has identified three forests for the first new planning efforts in California – The Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra. \*This planning effort is said to include Subpart A analysis, the part of Travel Management intended to 'minimize the road system'. I am on the Steering Community representing motorized recreation, and the push from the extreme community to close more roads and trails is considerable. It will be up to activists on the ground, in their local areas, to defend their roads and trails.

The Sierra Cascades Dialog Sessions are held roughly once every two months, and are intended to prepare the forests for the planning process, and define the important characteristics to retain in our forests.

**Motor Vehicle Use Maps:** [http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/ohv\\_maps.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/ohv_maps.shtml)

**Seasonal Closures:** The Forest Service has announced that they are reanalyzing the necessity for seasonal closures. We have seen just how ill-advised fixed seasonal closures are for our forests this winter. With changeable weather patterns in play, we are seeing forests closed to recreation just as we are experiencing the best weather for riding and driving. It has been a dry winter, which provides more proof that closures should be predicated on moisture levels in the soil, rather than dates that have been arbitrarily chosen.

**Trail Closures:** Recently it has come to light that there are restoration projects masquerading as collaborative actions in a few forests. These collaborative projects are not including motorized recreation advocates in their ranks because the Forest Service believes we are not interested in environmental issues. I beg to differ, if we are not involved, we run the risk of actions being taken that threaten our access. Go to your local Ranger District or Forest Supervisors office talk with them.

### **CORVA Accomplishments**

- ✓ CORVA Comments Project: held 3 workshops, 2 dedicated to Johnson Valley, 1 for the Bakersfield Field Office Travel Management
- ✓ American Land Access Association joins CORVA, bringing the power of thousands of rockhounds to our membership
- ✓ California Houndsmen for Conservation joins CORVA, bring the power of thousands of houndsmen to our membership.
- ✓ Support for OHV Division of CA State Parks: brought together over 30 organizations of off-road enthusiasts, race teams, rockhounds to deliver letters to Governor Brown and Secretary Laird.
- ✓ Tahoe Meadows Winter Recreation Collaborative Group: CORVA represents snowmobiler's rights
- ✓ Special Recreation Permit Process: 2 board members on subcommittee
- ✓ Desert Recreation Renewable Energy Conservation Plan: CORVA has representative on committee
- ✓ Recreational Access Coalition Council: mapping desert uses, CORVA BOD member chair of committee
- ✓ Forest Service LEO Task Force: eliminating bias against OHV enthusiast in national forests
- ✓ Vote Smart! Voter Guide: geared towards educating off-roaders about the candidates running for office
- ✓ OHV Advocate Day in Sacramento: "Information and Access 411" for politicians
- ✓ Pursuing legal action with the Sierra Access Coalition and Butte County against the Forest Service
- ✓ Organized "Off-Road Coalition" working together to counter efforts by the State Water Resources Control Board to restrict access in the 17 forests in California to OHV access
- ✓ Working to protect access to Rubicon, snowmobile and important OHV areas in WEMO
- ✓ Working with other groups to save Johnson Valley