



United Four Wheel Drive Associations

Protecting, Promoting, and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

UFWDA eNews February 2014

In another 'first' for UFWDA, it has been decided, after conferring with our member organization delegates, that the 2014 annual meeting will be conducted 'online' in the form of an interactive web conference or [webinar](#). Yes, the rules do allow this.

There are several reasons, with two being perhaps the most obvious, time and money. While the pleasure of the camaraderie of the traditional meetings around the USA will be missed by many, it has been obvious that the travel and associated costs have become a limiting factor on attendance.

By using a webinar, UFWDA and our members save significant money that can be better applied to our objectives of advocacy for our recreation.

How will it work? The annual meeting will be conducted over a short period of time; ideally less than 90 minutes. Those who've participated in the quarterly delegate webinars will be familiar with the high level of reporting on our finances that is achieved. A process for voting on the relevant BoD roles by registered delegates, will be simple. Recipients of awards will be announced.

Other business, often part of past annual meetings, such as land use discussion and planning for the future etc. will be covered in subsequent webinars over the following weeks. The idea being that we make more frequent contact, broken into smaller time frames that people will be better able to fit into their busy lives.

The intention is to use a weekday time such as a Wednesday 8.30pm Eastern, to allow those in many other time zones the opportunity to join in. The system UFWDA uses will allow up to 100 online participants but pre-registration will be essential.

Peter Vahry – editor - international vice-president
editor@ufwda.org

Headlines:

- **Sierra Club promotes outdoor recreation?**
- **Send an Email to the President Opposing Massive New National Monument Designations**
- **Glade Run Recreation Area (Chokecherry Canyon) NM**
- **UFWDA online magazine 'Voice'**
- **2014 Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival**
- **Grand Mesa Jeep Club Named Colorado "Club of the Year" - 2013**
- **Stanislaus National Forest Solicits Public Input On OHV Program**
- **WOHVA Update February '14**
- **Clear Creek Management Area Resource Management Plan, California**

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

Sierra Club promotes outdoor recreation?

By Carla Boucher, Attorney

The Sierra Club claims to reach across economic lines, cultures, and communities to engage all Americans -- including military and youth -- to explore, enjoy, and protect the natural world through its "Sierra Club Outdoors" program. The truth about the program, as well as the facts about the legal arm of the Sierra Club, Environmental Law Program, tell a much different story!

For example, the Sierra Club Outdoors program includes an orienteering adventure at Prince William Forest Park, in VA. The trip headline sounds pretty outdoorsy. PWFP is even managed by the National Park Service. However, the park is located just 35 miles south of Washington, D.C. and NPS promotes the fact that it "is the ideal 'home base' for your visit to the Washington, DC metropolitan region." The DC metropolitan region consists of 27 counties and independent cities. This isn't really the setting many Americans envision for exploring and enjoying the outdoors -- a park located not more than 35 miles from a city/region with a population of 5.8 million residents in 2012 and the 5th highest crime rate ranking in the United States in 2013.

Another outdoor exploration activity through the program, is hiking in Hollywood Hills outside of Los Angeles. Hiking the hills sounds like a promising outdoor experience to engage Americans in a love affair with the great outdoors. However, the hike occurs in Griffith Park, the "11th largest municipally-owned park in the United States, and where you go if you want to get up close and personal with the "Hollywood Sign". The picture of the park posted on the Sierra Club Outdoors website clearly shows a tower near the hollywood sign and begs the question whether this is the type of "outdoor" experience Americans are clamoring for.

<http://sierraclub.typepad.com/missionoutdoors/2014/02/hiking-in-hollywood-with-brooklyn-decker.html>

The Sierra Club Outdoors website was built to convince the uninitiated that the organization actually promotes recreation. But in contrast to the canoeing, hiking, and occasional biking outings touted by the Sierra Club to demonstrate their commitment to "engage Americans to explore the natural world", the Sierra Club has filed nearly 200 lawsuits in 2012-2013, NOT including lawsuits filed in the name of Sierra Club chapters, each one aimed at preventing some type of "use" of land in America.

By its own admission the Sierra Club Environmental Law Program has, "helped safeguard tens of millions of acres of prime wildlife and fish habitat." It also brags, "Since 2010 we have trained more than 250 attorneys from our allied organizations". The Sierra Club ELP itself currently employs 28 staff attorneys. The goal of the Sierra Club is to prevent "use" of land in America, not promote recreation on land in America. Don't be fooled otherwise.

<http://content.sierraclub.org/environmentallaw/about>

Send an Email to the President Opposing Massive New National Monument Designations

President Uses State of the Union Address to Highlight Push for Monuments.

Americans For Responsible Recreational Access recently alerted that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell made a speech that noted that the President would "take action" with regard to designating National Monuments. Now the President himself has used his State of the Union address to make a similar statement.

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

President Obama said on Tuesday night (1/28), "...I'll use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations." Translation - he may intend to move forward with several massive, inappropriate National Monument designations that have the support of some anti-access proponents.

Please send an email to the President (and a copy to Secretary Jewell) opposing any unilateral decision to move forward with massive, inappropriate National Monument designations, and to urge him and his Administration to meaningfully consider the input of ALL local stakeholders.

TAKE ACTION **NOW!**

It is imperative that the President and Secretary Jewell hear from you as all sorts of multiple uses including motorized recreation will likely be shut out of National Monument areas.

Background:

As it stands, the Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President the authority to designate "...historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments." The Antiquities Act also holds that national monuments should be "...confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected..." yet Presidents of both parties have, in our view, inappropriately designated enormous swaths of public lands as national monuments. One particularly egregious example was the designation of nearly 2 million acres of public land as the Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument in Utah.

Too often when widespread local and Congressional support to designate public lands as Wilderness cannot be established, Wilderness proponents turn to a strategy of calling for the President to achieve similar goals by administratively designating the area as a National Monument. It is no secret that those most affected by land use decisions are those who live, recreate and make their livelihoods on or near the public lands in question.

Visit the web address below to tell your friends about this.

<http://www.arra-access.com/site/TellAFriend>

To better help ARRA advocate for responsible access, please forward any messages you receive from Members of Congress in response to this or any ARRA alert to webmaster@arra-access.com. Also, if you receive a message encouraging you to use a webform to send a message to a Member of Congress, please copy and paste the letter from the ARRA alert into the webform and send. Thank you.

Glade Run Recreation Area (Chokecherry Canyon) NM

The Farmington Field Office of the BLM has released the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Glade Run Recreation Area Recreation and Transportation Management Plan for public comment. This is a revised draft of the plan that was first released in March of last year.

Public comments are due by midnight of February 20th.

NMOHVA has done a very brief preliminary review of the three alternatives. Here is a very quick overview:

The Good:

The BLM now agrees that they have no authority to try and manage "user conflict". This is hugely

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

important as this was one of the primary drivers for the creation of the Recreational Management Zones (RMZ's). This is a DIRECT RESULT of comments submitted on the first draft plan. Congratulations!

The preferred alternative and Alternative B both contain at least 3,300 acres of "open" play area and official designation for dozens of the Cliffhanger's historic 4WD trails.

The Bad:

The preferred Alternative A includes closing 127.5 miles of existing routes.

The preferred alternative (Alternative 1) and Alternative 3 still contain over six thousand of acres of "RMZ 1" which is focused on providing non-motorized recreation.

The RMZ 1 (Non-motorized) zone runs right down the center of the area with RMZ 2 (Motorized on designated routes) zones on both sides. This appears to be an open invitation for continued agitation by the non-motorized users in the future.

Alternative C does not include an "open" area and recognizes very few of the Cliffhangers 4WD trails or the existing ATV and motorcycle trails.

The full notice and contact details can be found at ;
<http://www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=3946.msg14503#new>




RECREATIONAL ACCESS GRANT

Americas Most Wanted 4x4 intends to set aside 5% of each customers sales receipt submitted to United Four Wheel Drive Associations dated February 1, 2014 through July 1, 2014 for the AMW 4x4 Recreational Access Grant.

The AMW 4x4 Recreational Access Grant shall provide opportunities to educate and assist four wheel drive enthusiasts in their quest for reasonable and equitable motorized use and recreational access. It shall endeavor to educate enthusiasts and the general public to responsible land use ethics and conservation of our natural resources. It shall also endeavor to provide assistance to organized four wheel drive enthusiasts in regard to their needs in working with land managers, decision makers, trail maintenance activities or other activities in their quest for reasonable and equitable motorized use and recreational access.

The initial request period for funds will be made between July 1 and July 15, 2014; This time period is with the intention to allow organized four wheel drive enthusiasts to submit a request to draw from this fund.

www.amw4x4.com



Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

UFWDA online magazine 'Voice'

UFWDA are now working on the next edition and what will be in it. The deadline for contributions is **20 February**, so sort those photos quickly now and write a few words about your 4x4 adventures.

Again we are looking for inspiring photos, **including something for the cover**. There must be some great images of recent 4x4 recreation and scenery among our readers photos.

Final deadline is 20 February 2014

UFWDA are happy to consider publishing members' views on the issues that impact our recreation.

editor@ufwda.org

UFWDA were recently advised that the system being used to publish Voice online has not been compatible with "Apple" products such as iPads etc. We apologize and realize that we've probably been inadvertently ignoring a valuable audience. Work is underway to resolve that.

2014 Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival

More Mud, More Time for Fun and Even More to Do

BUTLER COUNTY, PA -- The Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival, one of the premier Jeep-only events in the nation, is geared up to welcome Jeep owners to the birthplace of the Jeep in Butler, Pa. June 13-15, 2014. These loyal enthusiasts drive hundreds of miles to descend on Butler County, including those anxious to admire dozens of rare military Jeeps to those who can't wait to test their Jeep's off-road capabilities on wooded trails and fun obstacles.

"We're adding even more things to see and do because we want to create an experience that changes and improves each and every year," said Patti Jo Lambert, Festival director. "This Festival is unique because it offers a wide range of experiences over a three-day weekend that appeal to all ages and all types of Jeep enthusiasts. We're committed to providing an opportunity for the Jeep community to come together and share their passion in the same place where the Jeep began more than 70 years ago."



During the weekend, attendees will see more than a thousand Jeeps of all models and years, learn about the history of the Jeep from WWII reenactors, exhibits and speakers, and see some of the latest parts and accessories offered by nearly 100 vendors. They'll also hear from industry experts who will provide tips and insights about the Jeep, experience off-road trails and obstacles and participate in variety of individual competitions and organized rides.

New in 2014

More Mud: The mud pit featured in the Jeep Playground is an annual Festival favorite. Jeep owners enjoy the opportunity to test their Jeep's capabilities, and spectators erupt in cheers when a Jeep conquers the muddy mess. New in 2014, a mud pit designated for stock Jeeps only will enable those with straight-off-the-lot vehicles to experience the thrill of making it through the mud.

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

The Bantam Jeep Muddy 5K is a new event that combines mud and the Jeep Playground in a whole new way. Five hundred individuals will have the chance to participate in this inaugural 5K foot race that will be held at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning, June 15. The race course will challenge people to perform as well as a tricked-out Jeep. Obstacles along the course will include tires, cargo nets, steep hills, wooded trails and the Jeep Playground itself. Racers will run over and through the same dirt hills and mud pit that the Jeeps do. The race will be a great way for families to kick-off their Father's Day celebrations.

More Time for Fun: The Festival is being extended an extra hour on Saturday evening, giving participants more time driving on the trails and playground, visiting industry vendors, walking through the WWII Encampment, learning about Jeep history and admiring the Jeeps competing in the Show 'n Shine competition. Event hours will be Friday, June 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The last trail rides will go out 30 minutes before the Festival closes each day.

Grand Mesa Jeep Club Named Colorado "Club of the Year" - 2013

By Jerry Smith

Jan 25th, 2014

Since 1962, members of the Grand Mesa Jeep Club have been Jeeping Colorado, Utah, and other locales. Living at the base of the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, Grand Junction places you only 100-miles from famous wheeling places like Moab, Ouray, and the Colorado high country.

That's not to say we have to drive 100-miles to find great Jeeping. For instance, a short drive from downtown is the Bangs Canyon Recreational Area. Within this BLM managed public land lays some great wheeling opportunities.



Club President, Jeff ,Bates received recognition and a plaque during a BLM volunteer recognition meeting for all that he and the GMJC did in 2013.

There's more to this story that will be found in the next edition of the UFWDA Voice online magazine.

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide

UFWDA 'Forum'

Are you aware of the information listed on the UFWDA 'forum' attached to our website? You can find postings of legislative decisions, land use matters on a regional basis and updates.

To join the UFWDA forum requires an application to the admin team (to avoid spammers and the work to manage them) Simply email forums@ufwda.org to request registration.

Stanislaus National Forest Solicits Public Input On OHV Program

Sonora, CA...The Stanislaus National Forest (NF) is soliciting public input on the preliminary 2015 off-highway vehicle (OHV) proposal, a key funding component for off-highway trail and facility forest maintenance, from March 4 to April 7. The California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHVMR) Division grant will support: facility operations and maintenance (e.g., Hull Creek Campground, Crandall OHV, Niagara OHV); trail repair and maintenance; installation of directional and educational trail signing; barrier placement; routine law enforcement patrols; and visitor education.

There are two projects in the proposal encompassing routes on all four ranger districts within the counties of: Tuolumne, Calaveras, Alpine and Mariposa.

Public comments on the proposed projects allow the public the opportunity to provide input on possible changes or additions. The OHVMR Division and Forest Service will review and adjust the proposal according to public input.

Stanislaus NF grant applications will be available for **review and comment from March 4 to April 7** on the California State Parks website at: <http://ohv.parks.ca.gov> .

For information or questions related to the project or public comment process, contact Mi-Wok Ranger District OHV Recreation Specialist, Chuck James at: (209) 586-3234 ext. 635.

Source... [The Pine Tree.net](http://ThePineTree.net)

WOHVA Update February '14

Every month WOHVA provides our members and other motorized trail recreation advocates with this short synopsis of WOHVA's efforts to assure that environmentally responsible OHV recreational opportunities are expanded here the Badger State.

To read the full update...<http://www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=3950.0>

Clear Creek Management Area Resource Management Plan, California

The BLM prepared a series of amendments to the Hollister RMP in 1986, 1995, and 2007 to address new information and concerns regarding asbestos related health risks and rare plant species. The CCMA was not addressed in the 2007 Hollister RMP, however, because in 2004 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) -initiated asbestos exposure and human health risk assessment was not completed in time to be incorporated into the Hollister RMP. Upon completion of the EPA study, the BLM incorporated this new information into its CCMA planning process and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

As a result of this new health and safety information, the CCMA ROD/Approved RMP designates the Serpentine ACEC as a ``Limited" vehicle use area for highway-licensed vehicles authorized by permit only. The ROD also limits the number of annual visitor-use days to reduce human health risks associated with exposure to naturally occurring asbestos in the ACEC.

This is an excerpt from the Federal Register notice found on <http://www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=3949.msg14505#new>

UFWDA on Facebook and Twitter too

[Check us out and maybe 'like' us!](#)

Find UFWDA on [Twitter](#) as @ufwdaorg
You may even find other information on Twitter

UFWDA mail address

Please help us by using this address....

United Four Wheel Drive Associations Inc.
PO Box 316
Swartz Creek
MI 48473

The deadline for contributions to UFWDA eNews, is the 10th of each month.
Please send materials to editor@ufwda.org

To use materials from UFWDA eNews, please acknowledge the source.
UFWDA eNews is collated from many sources and may not represent nor constitute endorsement by UFWDA Inc.
Copyright United Four Wheel Drive Associations 2014

Protecting, Promoting and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide