

Recovery Points

The Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 2

April 2017

...because access to YOUR public land is too important to lose

President's Message

Larry Pope

MAFWDA President

United we stand!

Why do I start out with the above statement? Let me give a little history of why Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Association (MAFWDA) was established because there are some who just don't know. I want to make this message an educational tool.

Back in the late 80's or early 90's, several of the current members of MAFWDA were also members of the East Coast Four Wheel Drive Association (EC4WDA), who were then members of the United Four Wheel Drive Association (UFWDA). In fact, they were one of the founding member associations.

MAFWDA started out with clubs from New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Right away, MAFWDA gained positive recognition from the rest of UFWDA. Even as MAFWDA went through difficult times, and still is, for a variety of reasons, it has held on, while many clubs and associations have faded away.

Currently, MAFWDA is making headway, in cooperation with Maryland Off Highway Vehicle Alliance, with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. While slow progress is being made.

The purpose of MAFWDA is to promote and preserve
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Land Use

Preston Stevens

MAFWDA Director of Conservation/Land Use

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are finally coming out of a rather unusual winter. Time to get the ole 4x4 ready for a great season of wheeling and camping, plus everything else outdoors. Once we get into the full blown wheeling season, we tend to move our focus around to play time. Well, we should. That is what wheeling is all about. You know, a great time with our machines and friends.

Yet, at the same time, as the expression goes, "do not take your eye off of the ball." While we, especially with the assistance our sister organization, the Maryland OHV Alliance, have made great progress. That all can turn around in a political second. If we keep reminding our land managers that we are tax payers and technically, they are working for us (in a polite way, please), we can keep moving forward. Nothing is a given, for sure, other than if we go quiet, so will our access. History has proven that to be fact. Look, we were denied access to the Savage River State Forest for a historically awesome snow wheeling weekend.

So, every so often, drop our land managers a nice note explaining what you want see. Any specifics that you can add, will make it a more powerful message. Then, let your state and federal elected representatives know. Never have we ever been in this good of a political climate for our cause. Yet, nothing good can come out of that if we do not insist on our fair share of our public lands.

Another way you can show your demand and desire for public lands access is to get involved in various volunteer efforts. I know we all have demanding schedules at home and at work. I totally get that, as I am up against that myself. Larry Pope has organized an excellent weekend event on the Green Ridge State Forest in May. Sure we lost what little decent access we had a few years back. Yet, there are a few ways to look at this. First, we all know, nothing is forever. So, who is to say that we may or may not at least, get some limited decent access? Also, look at the image this creates. That can help in other locations. How about just doing it, as it is a good thing to do?

The one thing four wheelers do better than any other
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■ President's Message

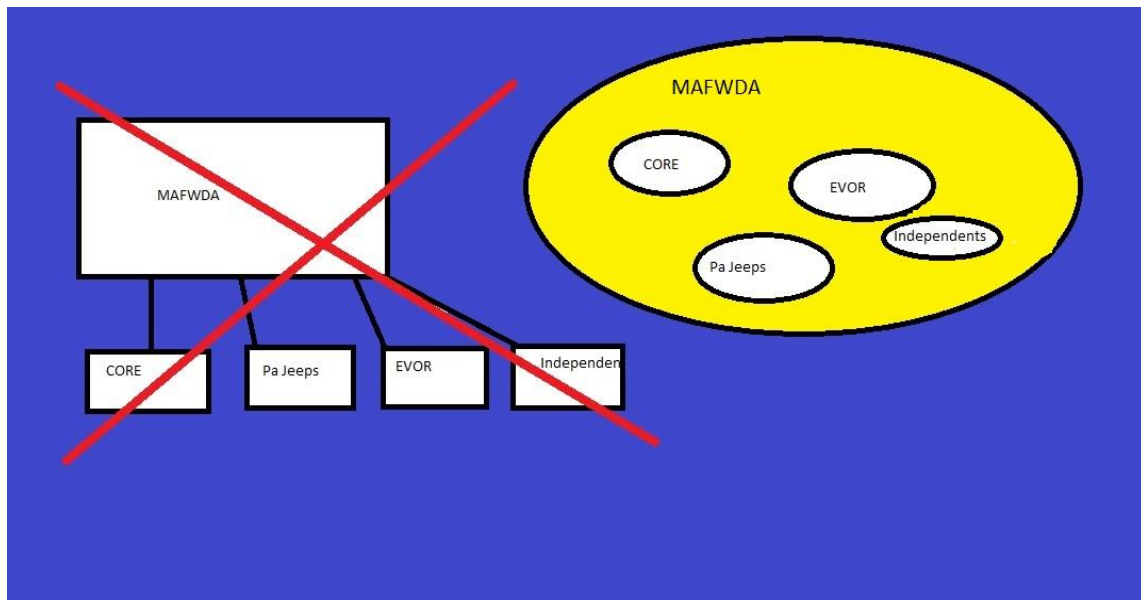
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the sport of 4x4 recreation. MAFWDA provides education to the 4x4 owner, enthusiast, and general-public regarding 4x4 safety awareness, land use ethics, and user techniques. MAFWDA is a means for the four-wheeling public to locate and contact 4x4 clubs in the Middle Atlantic Region excluding Virginia. MAFWDA works with land managers, private land owners, and legislators for the improvement of the sport of 4x4 off-roading, while promoting practical conservation of our natural resources.

MAFWDA was created to promote a more responsible approach to OHV use on public and private land. We help to prevent legislation which would impose undue restriction on recreational OHV, to institute programs of Conservation, education, and Safety. To encourage state and federal land management agencies to develop areas and trails for outdoor recreation.

MAFWDA and its members work together in the interest of vehicle oriented recreationist. MAFWDA is not responsible for the oversight of member clubs' membership or operation. MAFWDA is in fact composed of its member clubs and independent members and is managed by a Board of Directors (BOD) made of those members. It is important to note that MAFWDA is not a social club like the association's member clubs.

Please refer to the graphic to see what all the above means. You are the MAFWDA and it needs your help to make it work. To set as a member of the MAFWDA BOD you do not have to be a member of a club BOD.



Graphic courtesy of Keith Holman, MAFWDA Treasurer

Larry

News Items Wanted

The MAFWDA "Recovery Points" newsletter is always looking for interesting articles and news items for publication. If you or your club has something that you would like to share with other members of the four-wheel drive community, please shoot an email to Mike V (MAFWDA newsletter editor) at Newsletter@mafwda.org and he will ensure your contribution is included in the next published edition.

"Recovery Points" is published quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, and Oct).

MAFWDA Recommended Businesses

The MAFWDA membership recommends these local businesses for your four wheel driving accessories and services. If you own a business or know of a business that would like to become a Business Partner contact Larry Pope MAFWDA President Director (President@mafwd.org).

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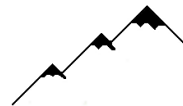


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■ Land Use

from page 1

user group. We can take the most difficult task and turn it into something that is actually fun and sometimes, funny. Those of you that have attended and participated in the Annual Potomac State Forest trail ride and campout know, that yes, at times, we worked hard. Yet, we had fun, laughed a lot. Plus, we have cashed in on the fruits of our labor. Look at it as the glass is half full.

If I can make it to the Green Ridge weekend, I will not only bring my Jeep, I will likely bring my fishing rods, if not my boat, as well. Yes, there are some minor wheeling opportunities. So, that is cool. Cooking over the camp fire, sitting around the campfire, laughing and sharing with our friends. Being outdoors. Can't beat it.

At Potomac, the wheeling is fun. Challenging enough to get a in few situations. But, all good. Because, as friends, we all help each other out. Camping in a very quiet, primitive site under the trees, the campfire, swimming, fishing, boating, biking, and hiking, on and on.... You know, making lemon aid out of lemons. At the same time, the site that Larry arranged for at Green Ridge is by far the best group site on the entire state forest, with a fishing pond right there. The site is flat and accessible with more any rig.

There are little things you can do to help to make sure you have not just a good trip, but a great trip. Perform a detailed preventative maintenance on your rig(s). Come prepared for whatever nature and situations will throw at you. Do the little things to make it fun for you and others. Such as, air down before hitting the trail.

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DO YOU KNOW YOUR MAFWDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Your MAFWDA Board of Directors is composed of volunteer members who contribute their free time to keep the organization going. Currently we have the following folks on the BOD:

President – Larry Pope
President@mafwd.org

Vice President – Bob Weaver
VicePresident@mafwd.org

Treasurer – Keith Holman
Treasurer@mafwd.org

Secretary – Mike Vincenty
Secretary@mafwd.org

Land Use Director – Preston Stevens (PA Jeeps)
LandUse@mafwd.org

Director of Events and Public Relations – Vacant
PublicRelations@mafwd.org

Director of Marketing – Vacant
Marketing@mafwd.org

Do you have free time and are willing to help MAFWDA? If so contact one of the Board members at the email addresses above. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BIG DOGS – ICE BREAKER

April 29, 30 2017
Gore, VA
Email: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com/>

WHEELIN' FOR HOPE

April 29, 30 2017
Oakridge Estate in Nelson County, VA
Email: Wheel4Hope@gmail.com
Web site: <http://www.wheelin4hope.com>

MAFWDA GREEN RIDGE STATE FOREST VOLUNTEER WEEKEND

May 19-21 2017
Green Ridge State Forest, MD
Email: lpope@comcast.net
Web site: <http://www.mafwda.org>

BANTAM JEEP FESTIVAL

June 9-11 2017
Butler, PA
Email: <http://www.bantamjeepfestival.com/contact-us/>
Web site: <http://www.bantamjeepfestival.com/>

MAFWDA POTOMAC STATE FOREST VOLUNTEER WEEKEND

July 7-9 2017

Potomac State Forest, MD
Email: pstevens122656@comcast.net
Web site: <http://www.mafwda.org/>

PA JEEPS SHOW

July 15-16 2017
York, PA
Email: jeepshow@pajeeps.org
Web site: <http://www.pajeeps.org/>

OCEAN CITY JEEP WEEK

August 24-27 2017
Ocean, MD
Email: <http://www.oceancityjeepweek.com/contact/>
Web site: <http://www.oceancityjeepweek.com/>

Any additions? Contact Mike Vincenty to get them added to the MAFWDA calendar (Newsletter@mafwd.org). ❖

Do we have your email?

As a member of MAFWDA, you should be receiving periodic communications from your fellow MAFWDA Board Members. If you haven't been receiving these messages, we probably do not have your current email address. Shoot Mike V your email address at Secretary@mafwd.org and he will ensure you are added to the MAFWDA email list.

Also all current MAFWDA members are encouraged to post items of interest for fellow four wheelers on this public email list. Simply send email message to mafwd_news@mafwd.org.

Quote

"We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. **[Winston Churchill]**

"You will find men who want to be carried on the shoulders of others, who think that the world owes them a living. They don't seem to see that we must all lift together and pull together. **[Henry Ford]**

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." **[Abraham Lincoln]**

"All the adversity I've had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me... You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you." **[Walt Disney]**

■ Land Use

from page 3

Typically, 15-18 PSI will work. This will enhance traction, ease impacts to the resource, and protect your tires and kidneys. Disconnect your sway bar. Make sure you have a working CB radio. Not required, but it does add to the fun. Hats, bug spray and/or Skin-so-Soft, sun screen, gloves, plenty of water, etc., all go toward a great trip, instead of a good trip.

Okay, so while things are better for us in Maryland and Pennsylvania, they are a long way from perfect. The "liberals" still have a strong hold in our Governments. So, we have to keep the pressure on.

On the federal level, we have golden opportunities staring us in the face. Remember, and this goes for any volunteer organization. You only get out of it what you put into it. So, neither Middle Atlantic nor United are some huge organization with paid lobbyists and deep pockets. We have to do it as an organization or if you will, work "United." That is how it works. You send letters as an individual or family, (even better), some on the Board will submit letters representing all of you. A large unified (United) voice, with big power in that. Those of you that have been around for a while know that we have lost a ton of access on "our" Federal lands. Way past time to take back what is rightfully ours. There has never been a better time. Share with others what you did. As a club, pass paper out to all of your members at your next meeting. Close the door and say, now, let's write some letters. Trust me, this totally works. Of course results are not overnight.

This spring, the new OHV area will open up at the St. John's Rock area on the eastern section of the Savage River State Forest, in Maryland. Not a very big area. But, it is a real start. This project will need volunteers from time to time, as to guarantee its success. There is another large area in the works in Western Maryland. The Maryland DNR will need your supports to see this through. Massive opportunities, there. The Alliance is looking at mining properties, as well.

The ball, for once, is truly in our court.

With all of that being said, most important. Make sure you all have a safe enjoyable wheeling season.

Respectfully,

Preston Stevens, Director of Conservation/Land Use
Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association

MAFWDA Green Ridge Volunteer Camping Event

Larry Pope

MAFWDA President

MAFWDA has made arrangements with the Forest Manager of Green Ridge State Forest in Flintstone, Maryland to participate in a volunteer weekend. This will be a camp and work project with those camping arriving the afternoon of Friday May 19th, volunteer work Saturday May 20th, and departing on Sunday. I have established a great professional relationship with the Forest Manager over the years. I have lead several volunteer weekends at Green Ridge the past few years. There are no actual off road trails located on the forest, those we had were closed several years ago. There are some roads that are not regularly maintained by the forest service and can be a little rough; stock rigs should be okay on most if not all roads. When the volunteer work is done I can lead a tour of the forest and travel some of the rougher roads and possible creek crossings. There are several overlooks with great views of the surrounding area and the Potomac River down in the valley.

A primitive group camp site (G-1) has been reserved for us for the weekend that will accommodate no more than 20 people. This site will not accommodate large RVs but travel trailers and pop-up camper may fit. The site has no pavilion so I recommend if you have a canopy please bring it along. I am working with forest personnel to have a porta-john placed on site. The work plan is still being developed by the Forest Manager and his staff. Final work details will be determined by number of volunteers.

At this particular time I am collecting names of those who wish to participate and volunteer. I need the number of volunteers so I can provide the information to the Forest Manager so he can finalize the work plan. I hope to get about 10 - 15 volunteers. When we have that done I will send out an email with the details to the participants only, this email is only a call for volunteers. If you can only participate on Saturday that is fine also.

If you will be participating please reply back to me at lt pope@comcast.net not later than April 10th. List your percentage of probability that you will be participating when you reply back to me. List also if you will be camping the weekend or just participating on Saturday.

This is a family oriented weekend event. There is a fishing pond next to the camp site that has trout, bass, and pan fish to be caught. Maryland State Fishing Regulations apply to all who wish to fish.

Cheers,

Larry Pope

MAFWDA President

Study shows OHV recreation contributes \$2.3 billion annually to Colorado economy

COHVCO news release

Reprint: <https://www.coloradotpa.org/2017/02/20/cohvco-news-releasesstudy-shows-ohv-recreation-contributes-2-3-billion-annually-to-colorado-economy/>

Editor's note. While the following article does not pertain to the MAFWDA area the message about the economic benefits of ORV recreation to the local and regional economy is very real. Think about this the next time you communicate with your landuse manager and local and state representatives.

February 20, 2017 in News

Denver – A recently completed study commissioned by the Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition and Trails Preservation Alliance documents a yearly contribution of \$2.3 billion to Colorado's economy due to tourism and sales activity linked to off-highway vehicle recreation.

The report was prepared by Pinyon Environmental after the 2014 – 2015 season. It shows nearly 200,000 Colorado and non-resident households participated in OHV activity, including motorcycles, ATVs, snowmobiles and 4WDs.

According to the data, motorized recreation enthusiasts spent an estimated \$1.6 billion while taking trips using motorized vehicles for recreational purposes. Motorized recreationists also spent money on maintenance, repairs, accessories, vehicle storage and miscellaneous items associated with their vehicles.

Direct sales of OHVs was estimated to generate \$914 million, while an additional \$882 million was attributed to indirect and induced sales. Over 16,000 jobs are related to the OHV recreation industry in Colorado. \$107 million in state and local taxes were paid during the study period.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife reports that over 170,000 OHV registrations and use permits were issued in 2015. Each annual registration for an OHV costs \$25.25.

The total of all documented sales and use activity by OHV owners and enthusiasts in Colorado is \$2.3 billion, according to the Pinyon Environmental study.

"This report clearly shows the positive economic impact of off-highway vehicle recreation in our great state of Colorado," said COHVCO President Jerry Abboud. "It also points out the importance of providing effective land management and riding opportunities for residents and tourists alike," added Abboud.

Pacific NW 4WD Association Uses Spill Kit To Protect Ground

By Dave Halsey, NOHVCC Contributing Writer

Reprint: http://nohvcc.org/Materials/Newsletter/february-2017?utm_source=MadMimi&utm_medium=email&utm_content=NOHVCC+News%3A+February+2017+Edition&utm_campaign=20170228_m137859431_February+2017&utm_term=Read+more#SpillKit

Editor's note. Here is a great tip we can learn from our 4WD Association partners. Assemble and carry a spill kit with all of our 4WD adventures.

Want to build a trail spill kit for your off-highway vehicle (OHV) club members to carry in their trucks, ATVs, ROVs or motorcycles?



Check out the one assembled and distributed by the Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association (PNW4WDA). It's light, compact, with everything you need to clean up the ground, protect your trail...and promote your group.

"We started it in 2011 at our Trail Jamboree," said Angie Marek, the Association's public relations chairperson and past president. "It's held in July and open to the public. We give a spill kit to each participant and our hosts at the 5-day event. It went over really well with everyone, including the land managers.

"We work with the Forest Service and the Washington State DNR, and we're always trying to be proactive in taking care of our public lands. One of our Jamboree participants went to the Easter Jeep Safari at Moab. His rear differential broke, oil leaked out. They took the kit and soaked everything up. They were up there the next day, and couldn't even tell where it happened."

The contents of the homemade spill kit are purchased on Amazon by Marek, and assembled by her and Association members. "I order all the stuff, have it ready, and we do an assembly line for the Jamboree," said Marek. "It's a fun time. Now the same people show up every year. They'll say 'Hey! Is it time to put them together?'"

The kit includes three absorbent pads, a pair of rubber gloves, and a black garbage bag for hauling out and

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■ Spill Kit

from page 6

disposing of the used material, dirt shoveled up and anything else used to clean up a spill. It's important to have two types of absorbent pads, says Marek. "The white pads separate oil from water, and the grey ones, they soak up anything. So I put two of the white ones in the kit and one grey one."

Everything is put into a clear plastic bag, along with an 8-by-5 inch card. It has the directions for using the spill kit on one side, and a message from the PNW4WDA on the other:

"Staying environmentally safe is essential when recreating with motorized vehicles. This kit provides the proper items to ensure vehicle fluids will not become part of the landscape. When you find yourself in a situation where your vehicle is leaking anti-freeze, oils, fuels, and other vehicle fluids while on a trail, please use this spill kit to remove and dispose of the fluids safely, according to environmental guidelines."

The card also features the logos of the Association, Tread Lightly! and the Washington State DNR.

The Association has distributed 1,500 spill kits in the past 5 years. They are sold for \$5 each, with most given to riders as part of their event fee at the Jamboree and other truck events. Marek is looking at adding a bottle of biodegradable Oil Eater cleaner/degreaser to the kit, after picking up a 4 ounce sample at the SEMA show.

Marek encourages all OHV riders to carry a spill kit. "The motorcycle guys, they put it in the bag on their bike; they might downsize it a little bit. And we've really been encouraging the side-by-side owners to carry them. They have the room to take one on all their rides."



The spill kit is also a great way to promote your association, adds Marek. Each one of hers includes a trifold brochure about PNW4WDA and a membership form to join it. "We encourage our members to carry an extra one in their rig. One for themselves, and one to hand to other people they meet on the trail," she said.

A NOHVCC Associate State Partner for Washington, Marek grew up in the 4WD Association. "My parents

belonged, and I got involved that way," she said. "I met my husband at a Jeep race, and both of my kids, now in their thirties, are officers in the Association. We do competitions, we do trail running, and we do a lot of land and legislative stuff. I'm really pleased that my kids have continued with that. A lot of people, they just know they have a place to play. They don't understand that there are people out there who are not able to go out and play on the weekends, because they're sitting in a meeting somewhere, working to protect their rights."

11 Basic Rules for Dealing with Land Management Agencies

Reprint: <http://archive.sharetrails.org/public-lands/power-tools>

POWER TOOLS

1: USE THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

Recognize that there is a chain of command and respect it.

We will talk about politics later, but we can quickly make a political enemy by needlessly bypassing one or more links in the chain of command. When dealing with an issue, always start at the lowest appropriate level. Don't go to the District Ranger if you don't like the way the Recreation Technician put up a trail sign, before you have talked to the Recreation Technician. On the flip side, don't be afraid to move up one link in the chain if you don't get the response or answers you want at the lower level.

2: BE WILLING TO COMPROMISE

Never let the perfect be the enemy of the good

In many respects, the game of land use is a game of compromise. The very nature of compromise means that you will give up something to get something. In addition, the OHV community is not politically active, which means that we often end up with less than you started with.

Tool Tip:

All too often, recreationists are put in the position of responding to travel plans developed by the land managers, or worse, one submitted by an anti-access group. Think outside the parameters presented. Look for opportunities for adding routes, or respond by formulating your own travel plan. Never be afraid to ask for adequate quantity of trail-based recreational experience that will meet the present and future needs. Land managers rarely suggest the "maximum recreation" alternative, so if we want to ensure adequate opportunity you will need to suggest it yourself.

3: GET INVOLVED

continued on page 8

Land Use Planning is a public involvement process, so you must be involved.

■ 11 Rules

from page 7

We need to be honest here. No national OHV advocacy group can save your roads and trails for you. BRC and other state and national groups can offer much in the way of assistance, but if the local recreation community doesn't get involved, nobody will. It takes time, it takes effort and it can be extremely frustrating at times. However - we are continually amazed at what a few dedicated people can accomplish.

Tool Tip:

One of the easiest ways to get involved is to simply get on the land manager's mailing list. The Forest Service and most BLM offices issue a quarterly update of all their planning projects. This is often called the "Schedule of Proposed Actions" (or SOPA). This document lists all projects either on-going or proposed in your area.

Tool Tip:

The president of your club can't be responsible for everything and land use can take a lot of time. Find someone in your club who is interested in land use and make that person your Land Use Director. The Director reads the SOPA and reports to the club on what issues are going on and what actions are needed.

4: KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

The more you know about the process, the more you can make it work for you

Anti-access groups know the process and have paid staff to ensure the process works for them. We are new to the game and don't have paid staff, so we need to work smarter and harder to turn our past losses into future wins.

Tool Tip:

Knowledge is power; therefore, learn everything you can about NEPA and the planning process. Granted, reading about NEPA isn't exactly our preference for bedtime reading, but you need to learn it. Nearly every BLM field office and Forest Service district office has a NEPA Specialist- often referred to as NEPA Nerds. These folks know NEPA and love to talk about it. Find out who your local nerd is and talk to him/her. They are often the person listed on the scoping letter as "send comments to:" They will help you understand the process. More importantly, they will learn who their "interested public" is and you will have the opportunity to explain your position and help them understand your activity. That's right, they probably don't pursue your form of recreation and don't understand why you do- knowledge is power. Educate them.

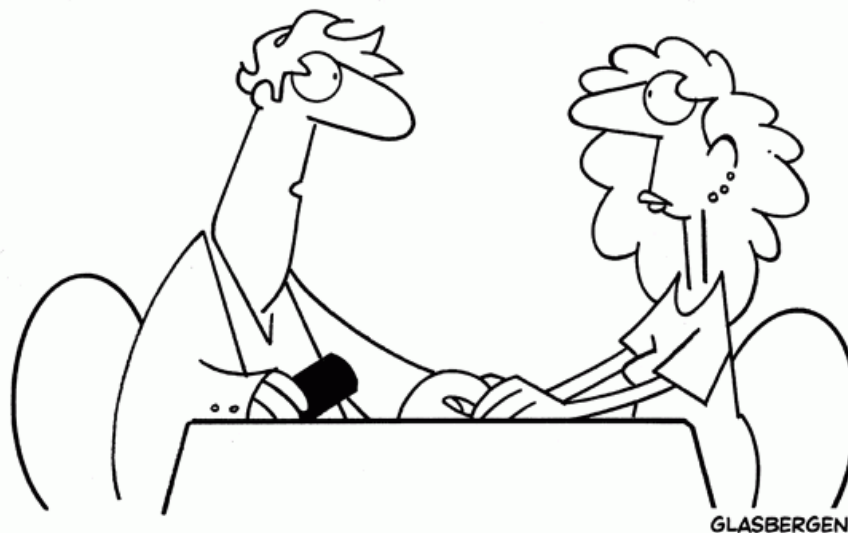
5: PUT IT IN WRITING

If it isn't in writing, it didn't happen.

This is one of the most important things for access advocates, and it's also one that folks too often forget to do. We must face the reality that the good ol' days of

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**"I can't afford an engagement ring,
so I bought you an engagement ringtone."**

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CORE

Promoting Responsible Four Wheeling



Washington DC metro area
CORE is organized as a nonprofit organization for the purpose of providing social, educational, and recreational four wheel drive activities for its members and guests, as well as participating in and supporting civic activities for the betterment of the community.

www.core4x4.org
<https://www.facebook.com/core4x4>
info@core4x4.org

Eagle Valley Off Roaders



Lock Haven, PA
Eagle Valley Off Roaders is a family based non-profit four wheel drive club open to all makes and models of 4x4's.
EVOR is committed to promoting stronger family bonds and raising children to both enjoy and respect their environment by maintaining existing public trails and expanding trails on private lands that are open to our use. EVOR participates in trail clean ups and cuttings to help ensure that future generations can enjoy our sport.

www.eaglevalleyoffroaders.com
jim@eaglevalleyoffroaders.com

Are you missing something? Where is your club? If you would like your club to be represented here, contact Mike Vincenty at secretary@mafwda.org for information on how your club can join and contribute to MAFWDA.

■ 11 Rules

from page 8

a handshake and a smile are gone.

Tool Tip:

Agency people transfer or retire; verbal agreements can be forgotten; agency goals and priorities change. Your input must be in writing no matter how well you know agency personnel or how many meetings you attend. Likewise, any agency agreements or commitments must be in writing.

Tool Tip:

Whenever a project comes up that you are interested in, start a project file and keep a record of everything related to this project: scoping letter, SOPA, all correspondence, notes from telephone conversations, newspaper articles, notes from public meetings, etc. Do this at the beginning of a project, not when things start going wrong.

6: DON'T ASSUME

Don't assume that someone else will look out for your best interests.

Again, the days of the "good ol' boy" are gone. You may have a good friend in the local agency office, but that person is still an agency employee who must act and respond to agency policies and priorities. If you don't have a friend in the local office, read and heed this tool tip.

Tool Tip:

Does your local district ranger, field manager, or recreation specialist know who you are and what your interest is? They won't know what you want them to know unless you tell them. It's not that hard- they're real people. Pick up the phone and make an appointment to talk to them. Again, knowledge is power, so educate them.

7: ASK FOR HELP

There is often a lack of knowledge and understanding about motorized recreation within the agencies.

There are a lot of resources available to land managers who lack specific motorized trail based management expertise. Have your local BLM'er or Forest Service recreation staff contact BRC and learn about the resources available to help them manage OHV use.

Tool Tip:

Take your local agency personnel out on a field trip so they can learn about you and your sport. It is of the utmost importance that they have fun and have a positive experience. We don't want tired people and we don't want hurt people, so keep it short and keep it easy. A good forum to consider is a mock poker run

with a BBQ in the middle for a lunch break. This is easy to set up, its fun, and most agency personnel have no idea what a poker run is. Knowledge is power.

8: SPEAK UP

Attending a meeting is not the same as speaking at a meeting

No one will know who you are or what your interest is if you just sit with your arms folded across your chest and listen to everyone else. We often hear; "I can wrench my bike, but I can't get up and talk in front of other people. Let someone else do it." Number one, there is no one else. Number two, we are mom and pop representing the grass roots of America; we don't have to be smooth; we don't have to be polished; we don't have to be eloquent; but we do have to be calm and we do have to be polite. Most of us can do that, so let's do it.

9: DON'T COUNT ON HISTORICAL USE

Historical use does not guarantee future use.

You can never assume that just because you've always done an activity that you'll always be able to do that activity. We hear it all the time; "That road has been open for 50 years!" It's sad to say, but it doesn't matter. The land managers do not factor that into the equation. Today, each road or trail must "add something" to the transportation system. We can no longer rely on historical use as a reason to keep roads and trails open. Rather, we must tell the land manager why it should be open, and what features the road or trail has that makes it an enjoyable recreation experience.

10: EXTERNAL 3Ps: Politics, Politics, Politics.

District Rangers, Forest Supervisors, Field Managers, and District Managers are the decision makers and they operate in the political arena. Their job is to "serve" the public and to try to make "balanced" decisions, but politics goes a long way in determining who is served and what is balanced. Clark Collins, Blue Ribbon Coalition Founder, has a famous story about this when he was told that he wasn't going to win an issue because he was "politically insignificant." At the time, that was true, but that statement drove Clark into action and through the 3 P's in #10 became politically significant and won. It boils down to our choice: we can whine and snivel, remain insignificant, and lose; or we can whine and snivel, take charge, become significant, and win.

Tool Tip:

WE MUST ENTER THE POLITICAL ARENA. When the staff at BRC was preparing our Member Handbook, Clark Collins, BRC's Founder came into our office and closed the door behind him. (Whenever Clark Collins closes the door behind him, you know something important is about to be said.)

continued on page 11

■ 11 Rules

from page 10

Clark told us:

"The single most important thing to do during a planning process is to establish a close working relationship with the local staff of your elected representatives. Those relationships can influence the process and will help you keep roads and trails open."

Tool Tip:

There's an old saying that politics makes strange bedfellows and it's true. This is a game of politics. We may have philosophical differences that will never be resolved, but NEVER alienate anybody- even the wilderness advocate. You and the equestrian or you and the mountain biker may be working shoulder to shoulder on the next issue.

11: Internal 3 P's: Patience, Persistence, Pressure.

We don't become politically significant overnight; we don't always win; the land use battles never stop; there can be a high level of frustration; and these planning processes can take years to complete. But again, if we don't have these 3 P's, we're not committed and we're not in the game.

Tool Tip:

We all have a comfort zone where we feel warm, fuzzy, and safe, but at some point, we have to force ourselves out of that comfort zone and take action. How much are we willing to lose? Who else is going to do it? We must start now.

Make Public Lands Great Again

Del Albright

Reprint: <https://delalbright.blogspot.com/2017/03/make-public-lands-great-again.html><https://delalbright.blogspot.com/2017/03/make-public-lands-great-again.html>

WE HAVE GONE TOO FAR WITH CLOSURES, RESTRICTIONS AND EXCESSIVE PROTECTION
Let's stop the silliness!

The decades of unchecked radical environmentalism have left us with a country bound-up in red tape, and restricted from common sense management. It is silly what we have allowed to happen to ourselves. It's time to Stop the Silliness!

Of course, I am NOT saying all regulations, Wilderness areas and land designations are silly or unnecessary -- but we have more than enough and it's time to unravel some red tape and make our access to public lands GREAT AGAIN.



We certainly do not need skyscrapers, mining operations or development on top of every mountain peak; but we also do not need these same mountain tops closed to responsible recreation, hunting, motorized access and public enjoyment. The excessive restrictions need to be turned around and stopped.

Here is how you can help Make Public Lands Great Again:

S = STOP creating unnecessary Wilderness areas, especially those that do not meet the criteria of the original 1964 Wilderness Act. Ideally, we should ask Congress to undo many recent closures. Let your voice be heard with your elected officials and tell our leaders to quit listening to exclusionary elitists who want to close everything.

T = TAKE BACK Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) that have been lingering on the books for decades and really do not fit the purpose of Wilderness. Take back other unnecessary and restrictive closures. Support the halting of frivolous lawsuits that lead to more WSA's or other restrictions. Donate to those causes that are fighting for your access and your public lands.

O = OPPOSE silliness in government and bureaucracy; educate politicians and lawmakers; help unravel red tape like with the permit process; and make sure YOU are significant by being part of organized recreation groups. Join, donate and volunteer are the three best things you can do to oppose more unnecessary closures and restrictions and make our public lands great again.

P = PRAISE good land managers and bureaucrats who are doing the right thing! Write letters to officials in charge when you know of a good land manager doing good things for our lands. This has to be a two-way street -- and we have to also work hard to get rid of our own bad apples spoiling our image as responsible recreationists.

Now is the time to Stop the Silliness. Please do your part and spread the word. Take action before "they" take more away from us.

Del

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