

Recovery Points

The Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 3

July 2017

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

President's Message

Larry Pope

MAFWDA President

It looks like public land in Maryland will be accessible to OHV use; well kind of. In late May MAFWDA was invited to a premier of the new OHV park that will be opening at St Johns Rock on the Savage River State Forest in western Maryland. The setup is very impressive and a lot of work has been put into it, to include advocacy, planning, and labor. However, the trail system is designed for motorcycles, ATVs, and side by sides only. No access for full size 4X4s to any of the trails. The only play area for full size 4X4s is a rock crawl that was designed and built on the back side of the park. However, the other OHVs have access to the crawl area also.

Don't get me wrong here; this is a great success for the entire OHV community since there is currently no access to trails on any public land in the state of Maryland. Legally anyway and legally is the only way to be on public land or private land as that goes. I applaud all those involved in getting this project started. This gives us hope that other public land will become accessible to all OHV users in the future. It doesn't make me mad but disappointed that St Johns Rock does not have trail access for 4X4s. But gaining access to public land must start somewhere and St Johns

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Land Use

Preston Stevens

MAFWDA Director of Conservation/Land Use

Well folks,

Summer has made it. There is some good news to share. If all goes well, the official ribbon cutting for the new St. John's Rock ORV area will take place real soon. To be honest, there is little for the four wheel drive folks, other than a fairly large rock crawling section. Understand, though, this is a first for Maryland and hopefully, the beginning of something much bigger.

This area will have a hand full of rather large camp sites that would easily handle most any size trailer. Mind you, it would be dry camping. If you are into ATV or motorcycle, there is much more for you there. About 16.5 miles of more. For the foreseeable future, this will be on a reservation system. You would place your reservations just as you would for camping on a state park. This you would do online. Yes, there is a fee in involved. The exact amount has not been set. Even exactly how it would work is not 100% etched in stone, yet. Of course, the first year or so will be some trial and error involved.

To say the event Larry Pope put together at the Green Ridge State Forest was a total success would be an understatement. Everyone had fun. Yes, fun, helping to restore an historic family cemetery. It was also, quite educational. Plus, we got to play later and really got an ear full of nature at the campsite. This would include our own resident woodcock. Neat little rascal that really made his presence known to all there.

A special Thank You to Larry for piecing that all together. With that being said, there may some good news eventually coming down the road for that area, as well. Can't say much for now. But, we all have our fingers crossed.

Last but not least, at least for my family and I, the Annual Potomac State Forest Volunteer, campout, four wheeling weekend is July 7th – 9th. For some of you, preparation would be quite last minute. Still, I encourage you to come up. If you have never been there before, it is a unique four wheel drive experience. You will have exclusive access to some roads or portions of roads that were built during the Great Depression by what was known as the C.C.C.'s.

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■ President's Message

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Rock is that start and it will be a successful venture for the OHV community and the state.

That's all I have for this issue. So, when you are out travelling the highways and byways to and from the trails we do have access to keep them at 10 and 2 and stay between the lines. Be safe out there.

Larry

■ Land Use

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(Civilian Conservation Corps). The volunteer work assists other trail users, as well as reduce the burden on the DNR Forest Service. In our case, the pay back is direct and instant.

Personally, this place will always hold a place in my heart and my family's. The first time I went to this place was during Deer season in about 1968, with my father. We drove all over that mountain in a 1956 Willy's CJ5. That got me hooked on both that place and Jeepin'. As time went on, I learned of so many other things to do there and in Garrett County in general. If you like the outdoors, you would have to love this area. Yes, it is a bit of a drive. Still, if it is worth experiencing, it is worth working for.

I sincerely hope to see all of you there. When you get back home, remember to do the PA Jeeps All Breeds of Jeeps Show, the following weekend. Rated within the top 10 four wheel drive events in the nation.

Happy Wheelin'

Preston Stevens, Director of Conservation and Land Use

MAFWDA Potomac State Forest Family Four Wheeling/Camping Weekend

DATE: JULY 7th, 8th and 9th, 2017

It is just a week away for the Annual Potomac State Forest Family Four Wheeling and Camping Trip. So, I know there are many of you that do not want to drive that far. Actually, with I-70 and I-68 being 70mph now, it is really not such a long drive. Plus, it is a nice drive once past Frederick.

This year, it looks as though we will be brushing out some trails on Back Bone Mountain for our volunteer portion. Another neat area. Our accomplishments are obvious for all to see. Our work benefits other OHV trails folks. Because we do this as a group and make it

fun it is not back breaking work and as a team, it is fun. Our pay backs are immediate.

I personally feel this location is an outstanding, unique place to wheel in a very special place (especially, to my family and I) featuring great camping and tons of opportunities to do whatever outdoors in a beautiful area. The site is reserved from the July 5th thru the 13th. For my family, for decades, it has made for an awesome family vacation. You are more than welcome to share this experience with my family and I beyond the weekend. Of course, you can do your own thing, too. If you can only come up during the weekend, you miss the other half of the reason we choose this as our vacation destination. If any of you choose to come up early, I only ask that you let me know, if you can, so we know to expect you. On a few rare occasions we did have a few try to horn in our site while we are there. This is a great family spot. Generally, great weather, great air and great people. Already, it sounds like we will have a nice size group. Not too big, not so small.

DIRECTIONS: From Baltimore-Take **I-695** to **I-70** West (Frederick) to **I-68 West** (Cumberland) just past Hancock. You will exit from the left lane. **Use caution, sharp turn.** Continue on I-68 to **Exit 14 US 219 SOUTH.** Stay with US 219 SOUTH on into Oakland. On the back side of Oakland, you will have to make a left at a light on a hill to stay with US 219 SOUTH. At the next large intersection you will continue straight onto MD 135 East. (From this point on, you will only pass 2 gas stations known to be open. A Liberty station at the next light on your left, or the BP station in sight of the next turn on your right on 135. **Please gas up before getting to the campsite.**) Next you will get to **MD 560 SOUTH** by taking a right at the light in Mountain Lake Park.

OR

Exit off of I-68 onto **Exit 19, MD 495 South.** (Left at end

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of ramp) Eventually, it will change into **135 West** at a flashing light. Later, you will see a BP on your left. (Gas up there). The light you will come to is **MD 560, turn left.**

You will cross over some railroad tracks and head up a steep hill. Follow 560 around by making a left on the crest of that hill, which will take you through Loch Lynn Heights.

Stay on **560 South** for a while. You will go down a large steep hill. At the bottom, the road will start to veer to the right. Next you will make a **left turn onto White Church Road.** You will go up this hill and come to a **fork in the road.** Go to your left. The road will drop down in service level and will feature some very sharp turns and often its share of pot holes. You will go

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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).

Adrenaline Off Road LLC



Your one stop shop for all of your parts and service needs. Installation is available for everything that we sell. Buy, sell, trade used parts and entire vehicles. Find your lowest advertised price and we will match or beat it.

www.adrenalineoffroad.com

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301-502-6180

Extreme Terrain



Your online retailer of aftermarket Jeep Wrangler parts and accessories headquarter just outside of Philadelphia, PA. ExtremeTerrain is staffed with enthusiasts dedicated to customer satisfaction.

www.extremeterrain.com

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1-800-988-4605

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High quality off-road enhancements for the four wheel enthusiasts.

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717-262-3079

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We provide complete service for your Jeep with experienced techs, specialized tools, and a knowledgeable staff.

www.mountzionoffroad.com

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717-308-1844

Steinjäger Inc.

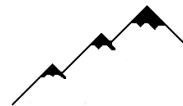


Steinjäger was founded in 2013 by principals of Midwest Control Products Corp to better serve the motorsport market with application-specific products.

www.steinjager.com

Hwy 9 West
Box 299
Bushnell, IL 61422
309-772-3163

Appalachian Offroad Inc.



Full service 4wd specialty shop in Westminster MD. Suspension, axles, fabrication

www.appalachianoffroad.com

2 East George Street
Westminster, MD 21157
410-848-29426

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@mafwd.org and he will ensure your contribution is included in the next published edition.

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

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

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/>

BIG DOGS – PACK IT IN ROAD TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA

July 21-23 2017
Gore, VA
Email: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com/>

OLD DOMINION JEEP FEST 17'

August 5 2017
The Meadow Event Park
13191 Dawn Blvd, Doswell
Virginia 23047
Email: <http://www.oceancityjeepweek.com/contact/>
Web site: <https://www.facebook.com/events/363896617303243/>

BIG DOGS – SUMMER SLAM

August 12-13 2017
Gore, VA
Email: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com/>

OCEAN CITY JEEP WEEK

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

BIG DOGS – MAIN JAMBO

September 8-10 2017
Gore, VA
Email: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com/>

BIG DOGS – FALL CRAWL AND RCPFA

October 14-15 2017
Gore, VA
Email: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.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

“Remember you will not always win. Some days, the most resourceful individual will taste defeat. But there is, in this case, always tomorrow - after you have done your best to achieve success today.” **[Maxwell Maltz]**

“Quite frankly, having an uninformed populace works extremely well, particularly when you have a media that doesn't understand its responsibility and feels more like it's an arm of a political party. They can really take advantage of an uninformed populace.” **[Ben Carson]**

“There are in fact two things, science and opinion; the former begets knowledge, the latter ignorance.” **[Hippocrates]**

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through a farm and then start down a grade. The road will soon become gravel/dirt. You will eventually come to **another fork in the road**. There will be a **DNR sign in the middle** of the fork. **Take the right fork** which will head you up hill. The road will swing right at the top and straighten out.

Look for a **yellow gate on your right close to the road**. The road will hit the road you are on at 90 degrees. Turn right there. You have arrived.

If you come up to a concrete outhouse on your left, you missed the turn.

If the gate is closed, just open it and let yourself in. You will see where to camp to your left. If you have a large trailer or motorhome, you may need to camp in the open area. Again, you will see what I mean. Please consider other folks, as if you have a tent or small pop-up, save the larger flat level areas for the larger rigs. This is a large area to camp with lots of options for whatever you use.

For now, our camper trailer is a KZ Spree, so if we are not there at that moment, you know you are at the right place.

DESCRIPTION OF TRIP: This is a family oriented trip, which features outstanding primitive (dry) camping, in the woods, excellent scenery, very enjoyable four wheeling on old wooded CCC roads, possible swimming, fishing, unique shopping opportunities and a great chance to do some team conservation work.

We may do some wheeling on Friday. Keep in mind, we will be wheeling on some routes rarely traveled. So, if you have a chain saw or bow saw, gloves and safety glasses, please consider bringing them along. (If you bring a chain saw, please bring your personal safety gear. Remember, we want to have fun!) On that Saturday lunch will probably be at the campsite. Then we do some good wheeling. Dinner. Then, do some more wheeling or swimming and then some nice campfire. Sunday, will feature some more wheeling, possible swimming, etc. Monday, chill out day. Shopping, fishing and packing.

Again, I have reserved the site from July 5th through the 13th. You and your friends and guests are more than welcome to come up earlier and/or stay later. You very well may be on your own at those times. Trust me, there are far more things to do than time to do them. I very much recommend the extended stay. We have been doing that for decades, now. The most difficult time is going home.

TERMS AND EXPECTATIONS TO WHEEL ON THIS TRIP: We will be wheeling on some routes that are normally closed to any motorized vehicles. Some may be open during Deer Season, some others for snow

mobiles, some never open. Otherwise, they are gated closed. Please keep in mind, the only time you can have access there, is with this outing. If you venture up there on your own, you will be cited and worse than that, stand to cause all of us to lose that valuable access. This is almost too good to be true. So, let's make sure that is never becomes just that.

Historically, we do a bit of trail related volunteer work on that Saturday Morning in return for some fun, family wheelin'. While I say this every year, all the same, every year, the group has somehow made these work details a lot of fun. Last year, you all did the very same thing every year, our folks restore my drive to keep our sport alive. After that, the wheeling was great. These roads, currently are typically not maintained, so really, it is up to us. Well, that makes for great wheeling, too.

DESCRIPTION OF FOUR WHEELING: The roads we plan on using are typically very tight, little used old Jeep trails, often there from either the C.C.C.'s work, old timber operations or another multiple use trail, such as a snowmobile route. Some have not seen any sort of maintenance in 20 to 30 years or more. In most cases, a stock Jeep can handle most of these roads. There are a few difficult sections that may be an issue or fun if you will. Yes, there are sections that may be too much for a bone stick 4x4. Skid plates and tow hooks are certainly a must on many of these routes. They feature some rocks, steep grades and sometimes wash outs. Some of these trails are not suitable for a large full size rig and if the conditions are not dry, some routes would not be open to full size rigs. If conditions are very wet, some routes may have to be avoided all together. The area dries quickly, so if we cannot do a road one day, we may be able to do it the next. We have never bombed out. July is almost always dry enough.

Again, we will wheel on Saturday and some years on Sunday, morning. Certainly, consider a Sunday Ride. That is a nice frame of mind to leave with.

RULES: Tread Lightly! Or not at all! Everyone needs to air down. Please, no exception. You can trust me on that one. Last year proved that out to some. Trust me, you really do not lose clearance. At least like you think you would. If you get hung, up, do not rip up the trail. These routes are typically not open. If we mess them up, they will be closed to us, too. Nothing new, No Alcohol on the trail rides. No exceptions! Pets are permitted. Owners must keep control of their pets and clean up after them, around the camp (You are free to drive around and explore, just not on the gated routes.) We go as a group, only, wheeling on the Forest. Plus, you, can hike or ride a bicycle around, or go fishing, swimming, site seeing, etc., anytime you want, pretty much, anywhere you want.

FISHING: There is fresh water fishing in Laurel Run, the Potomac River or several other areas outside of

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the Laurel Run/Wallman area. The Jennings Randolph Lake and Youghiogheny River Lake are excellent places to take any kind of small to medium sized power or non-power boat. I truly recommend bringing up your boat. Jennings Lake is a beautiful, unique place to boat, swim and fish. It is rarely, if ever crowded. It is loaded with fish. They just do not always bite. Broadford Lake and the Savage River Reservoir require the use of an electric motor or paddles. You can fish from the bank or pier at Broadford. But, there is a fee, there. Of course, there is Deep Creek Lake. There is a small usage fee at each location. There is excellent fishing there. You must have a Maryland Fishing Fresh Water License. Also, a trout stamp to fish the River and Laurel Run, if over the age of 16.

SWIMMING: It was really not that hot last year, so we did not go swimming, but could have. Yet, many years, it is great. There is a nice swimming hole in the Potomac River that is a local favorite. Being as we are going in July, there is a very good chance we are going swimming.

CAMPING: There are NO hook ups. No set camping pads on our site. There is a concrete outhouse in easy walking distance from the site, but not too close. The ground is rocky. Plastic or cheap metal stakes are generally worthless there. You will actually be camping under the trees. Typically, it is 10 to 20 degrees, or more cooler than in Baltimore. Even 5 to 10 degrees cooler than Oakland.

The camping fee is for the entire site. Thus the cost will be divided up amongst the attendees, based on camping families/units. Where you camp is first come, first serve. In short, camping is really inexpensive. The more that camp, the cheaper it is. Still, if you have a smaller rig or tent, before you set up on that wide real flat, level site, remember, some folks will be coming up with a trailer or camper that requires that sort of nearly level site. Still, that does not mean you need to take a lousy site.

MOTELS: There is one right in Mountain Lake Park. I have to be honest with you. I know very little about it or how nice it is. I heard the food is good at their restaurant. There are a few right in Oakland, as well. The one in Mountain Lake Park is right near an auto parts store. How can you beat that?

AUTO PARTS: There is a nice auto parts store right in Mountain Lake Park and there is a Ram/Jeep Dealer in Mountain Lake Park and other parts stores and dealers in Oakland. These seem to be real good folks. Still, try to make sure your vehicle is in good, well maintained order. Do this for yourself and others with you.

WEATHER: Garrett County is the wettest region in

Maryland. So, rain is not out of the question. The temperatures may range as high as the upper 80's (rare) to as low as the low 40's at night. If it is very humid, (possible, but not typical,) Avon's Skin So Soft or a good bug repellent can save your trip. Yet, normally, they are not an issue. Bring extra clothes. Trust me on that one.

ITEMS TO BRING:

Required

Your own **water, camping gear or Motel reservations, food and cash** to go toward the group camping site.

Tow hooks on your rig (Yes, folks have indeed needed a pull, they did last year)

Tire Air gauge Spare Tire and Jack (A plug kit is not at all a bad idea. Guess how I know that)

Full size spare tire. Please do not assume someone else will have your size tire. That is simply not fair. Still, on that note, there is an excellent tire dealer on US219 near Oakland.

Start out with a **full tank of gas.** (Please fuel up before getting to the campsite. There is a gas station in site of the turn off to Route 560. You probably will not burn that much. Still, you do not want to have to cut your day short due to low fuel)

Recommended gear

31" tires or a bit larger, all or mud terrain (not a must, but you "may" have to fore go one or two routes with smaller tires on some vehicles) Emily did prove that wrong last year with her 235's on a bone stock XJ.

Skid plates (some routes are very rocky) Dragging the bottom is rather likely in sections.

Flash light(s) (It gets dark there. Real dark!)

Matches (old school, but when you need them, you need them)

Small travel cooler for trail ride snacks & cold drinks (I recommend a soft cooler)

Sun glasses (hopefully, they would be a must)

Hat (trust me, it can make for a better trip)

Sun screen (even in the mountains, you can get a sneak attack sunburn)

Bug repellent (usually not an issue. But, we have been known to use some) Avon Skin So Soft really can do the trick.

Extra water (Think primitive camping. You may want to wash up, as well as for cooking and drinking. Sometimes it is simply too chilly to swim)

Food Again, think primitive camping.

Camp stove (Dry fire wood is not a given)

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Extra toilet paper Plus, always keep a roll in your vehicle)

Air Compressor (It can make a trip just a bit nicer.)

Rain gear (That way, it will not rain. Sounds good, anyway.)

Tarp

Bow and/or chain saw (please bring and use your safety gear when using the chain saw)

Work gloves

Extra clothes cool and hot weather clothing. Extra, because you just do not know.

Tools, especially to disconnect sway bar and a hammer for tent stakes.

Chairs for sitting around Camp Fire

CB radio (channel 34)

Cell Phone

First Aid Kit Consider one with a snake bite kit. There is a reason the one road is called Rattlesnake Ridge)

Camera and even video.

Fire Wood Please note, you are not supposed to bring fire wood from more than 60 miles away. Construction wood is fine. The DNR is concerned about bringing in the Ashbore. As it is a destructive bug that targets Ash trees. Unfortunately, I believe the DNR has lost that war.

WHO CAN ATTEND: Any Middle Atlantic Member in good standing, potential member(s) and invited guests. All attendees are expected to follow the rules of Tread Lightly! And help out with the work detail, as long as they are physically able. If you are unable to help, do not let that stop you from coming up. We all understand. Please contact me (Preston) as to let me know that you and your guests are coming up, including a vehicle count. That is not required. It simply helps me to lay out the trail ride schedule. By all means, I encourage you to bring the entire family up and friends. It is an outstanding family location. There are literally tons of things to do in Garrett County.

If you aren't sure if you are in the right spot or are struggling finding your way there, my Cell Phone Number is (Verizon) **443-605-3573**. Remember, I may be in a location when you call, that has poor or no signal. Just keep trying and by all mean, leave me a message with your phone number.

See you there!

Preston

Trail Ethics

Bill Burke

Reprint: <http://bb4wa.com/2016/12/01/trail-ethics/>

Proper etiquette is not just using the right salad fork. When we venture forth into the back country—whether we're hikers, bikers, 4-wheelers, snowmobilers, horse riders, or llama packers—why do we sometimes leave our manners at home?

Temperatures boil. Personalities clash.

We forget that there are very diverse types of recreational forest users. No matter how much we disagree with somebody else's way, we all have something in common. We're there to appreciate our country's spectacular mountain passes and to savor our "day in the woods."



As an Outfitter Guide using 4-wheel drives and an Outdoor Educator of 4-wheeling safety, "Planning and Scoping Actions" frequently cross my desk explaining the wide spectrum of land use, from wilderness selection to logging operation, to proposed trail/road openings and CLOSURES. Yes, closures! Part of "the plan" is to close roads and trails that we all know and love.

To help limit closures and develop cooperative attitudes between backwoods travelers, as users of 4-wheel drive sport utility vehicles, it's critical to bring common courtesy and proper trail use ethics with you on the trail. Don't leave home without them! All 4-wheelers must share responsibility for using public lands.

- Operate motor vehicles as slow as possible, but as fast as necessary.
- Be prepared. Have proper maps and equipment. Know how to use them.
- Give people going uphill the right-of-way due to the "gravity thing."
- Keep your vehicle as level as possible, which allows all tires to be in contact with the ground. This prevents wheelspin, digging holes and erosion from starting.

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- Stay on white arrow trails and marked forest development roads. There are more than enough challenging trails for every skill level without seeking your own track.
- If you come upon horse riders or llama packers, turn off your engine and let them by. Take time to chat. You might find something in common, or a new area to explore.

Become informed. Educate your children. Become involved. Volunteers with TREAD Lightly!, Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition, Colorado Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs, and United 4-Wheel Drive Association donate countless hours for "Adopt-a-Trail" trail clean-up, maintenance, and documentation projects, campground renovation, goodwill trips for the disabled. They work with the Forest Service, state and local governments, and the Bureau of Land Management to help keep our access to public lands and can use your help. In turn, you and future generations of off-highway vehicle users will benefit.

We all want to shed the grime of the city and enjoy the solace Mother Nature offers from her smorgasbord of beauty. It's for all of us, no matter what transportation mode we choose.

Drive responsibly. TREAD Lightly! Ask First. And don't be a stick-in-the-mud!

way to protect the land.

Zinke toured Bears Ears last month on foot, horseback and helicopter and met with Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and other state leaders. Herbert and other Utah Republicans oppose Obama's designation of the Bears Ears National Monument.

Zinke, a former Republican congressman from Montana, said he wants to make sure Native American culture is preserved and said Congress should approve legislation granting tribes legal authority to "co-manage" some of the Bears Ears site.

"I have enormous respect for tribes," Zinke said, adding that he supports Native American efforts to restore "sovereignty, respect and self-determination."

Instead of the monument designation, which prevents a range of development, Zinke said some of the sprawling, 1.3 million acre site should be designated for conservation or recreation. He called on Congress to approve a land-management bill for Bears Ears and other federal lands.

The Republican-controlled Congress has failed to approve significant public lands bills in recent years, but Zinke said that was because of veto threats by Obama.

He summed up his optimism in two words: "President Trump."

Interior Head Suggests Reducing Bears Ears National Monument

AP

Reprint: <http://www.opb.org/news/article/interior-head-suggests-reducing-bears-ears-national-monument/>

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday recommended that the new Bears Ears National Monument in Utah be reduced in size and said Congress should step in to designate how selected areas of the 1.3 million-acre site are managed.

Zinke made the recommendation as part of an interim report to President Donald Trump on the scenic swath of southern Utah with red rock plateaus, cliffs and canyons on land considered sacred to tribes.

Trump signed an executive order in April directing Zinke to review the designation of dozens of national monuments on federal lands, calling the protection efforts "a massive federal land grab" by previous administrations.

Trump and other Republicans have singled out former President Barack Obama's designation of Bears Ears, calling it an unnecessary layer of federal control that hurts local economies by closing the area to new energy development. They also say it isn't the best

Federal Land Grabs Have Gotten Out of Control

Why Trump's Executive Order Is a Positive Sign.

The Daily Signal - Nicolas Loris

Reprint: <http://dailysignal.com/2017/04/26/federal-land-grabs-have-gotten-out-of-control-why-trumps-executive-order-is-a-positive-sign/>

Draining the swamp doesn't just mean shrinking the size of federal bureaucracies. It means reducing the role of government throughout our society—including its ability to seize land.

A good place to start is President Donald Trump's executive order, which calls for a review of national monument designations—a tool long used by presidents to unilaterally restrict land use.

The tradition of presidents designating national monuments began in 1906 when President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act.

That law was intended to prevent the looting of archaeological and Native American structures and objects, and it gave the federal government an expeditious path to do so.

Unsurprisingly, its use has evolved into a federal power tool for making land grabs that cater to special interests, rather than welcoming input from local affected parties, such as the outdoor tourist industry.

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"I keep pressing the 'escape' key, but I'm still trapped in this dead-end job!"

■ Federal Land Grabs

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Native American tribes, or simply the people living in the community.

Such land grabs date way back before President Barack Obama. Before his last-minute monument designations, 16 presidents designated more than 140 monuments covering over 285 million acres of land and marine areas.

Like every other environmental decision ordered by a new administration, the left responded to Trump's executive order by predicting that it will reduce America the Beautiful to a dumpster fire.

As one publication put it, the order is a "sop to right-wing radicals who are hostile to public lands—and really hate Obama." (They forgot to mention the hatred for puppies and rainbows, too).

Contrary to the media spin, the issue at hand is not about environmental stewardship, but taking decisions away from states, private citizens, and local interests.

For more than a century, the president of the United States has had the power to unilaterally designate land as a national monument, without input from Congress or the affected states.

Such action from the president either prohibits or restricts economic opportunity in the area, and often does more environmental harm than good.

Reading The Washington Post article on Trump's order, one could easily assume that there is no local opposition to the controversial 1.35 million acre monument designation at Bears Ears declared by Obama in the final days of his presidency—one of the presumed targets of Trump's executive order.

The Post gives the false impression that only elected Republican members of Congress opposed Obama's designation.

The article highlights that a coalition of tribes, environmentalists, archaeologists, and outdoor industry groups all lobbied Obama for the protection at Bears Ears. Yet the author conveniently fails to include opposition from, you know, the local tribes and people that actually live in San Juan County.

For instance, members of the Navajo of San Juan County tribe—the county where Bears Ears resides—rescinded their support for the monument designation. Chester Johnson, of the Aneth Navajo chapter said,

At that time when they switched to national monument they didn't share it back with the community what their intent was. Aneth is the only one chapter that had the backbone to stand up and say, 'Look central government, you don't do that. You share it with us what the intent is for our region, the land that we use for centuries.'

Another Aneth chapter member, Susie Philemon, fought back tears as she urged opposition to the designation, underscoring the fact that they have

strong incentives, both economic and spiritual, to protect and preserve the land.

She stressed that "[t]here are people that still graze there, they reside there, and they make that place their livelihood and you cannot just take that away."

San Juan County leaders staunchly opposed Obama's designation.

Native American Rebecca Benally, the first woman elected to the San Juan County Commission, voiced opposition to the centralized decision, saying, "My constituents do not want a national monument in San Juan County because it's just another federal overreach with empty promises."

As loudly as the local community, the Navajo of San Juan County tribe, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, and members of Congress and state officials voiced their concerns, they all fell on deaf ears.

The problem of unilateral land designation dates much further back than Obama and Bears Ears.

Although Obama designated the contentious Bears Ears monument in Utah as he walked out the White House door, the use of the Antiquities Act is a bipartisan problem. Presidents from both parties have abused the power to restrict land use.

A review of the use of the Antiquities Act designations is a welcome and necessary first step, but ultimately Congress needs to intervene.

Congress should recognize that states, local governments, and private citizens are the best arbiters of how to manage land and should repeal the Antiquities Act or limit the president's power by requiring congressional, state, and local approval for any national monument designation.

Whether the issue is logging, recreation, conservation, or energy extraction, such decisions are most effectively made at the state and local levels. An antiquated law more than 110 years old shouldn't ruin the lives of communities.

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