

Recovery Points



The Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 4

October 2015

Land Use News

Preston Stevens

MAFWDA Director of Conservation and Land Use

Well, I sincerely hope that you all had a great summer. I mean, where did it go? Shoot, I only got out wheeling once. While it was great! It was just once. Just too much going on.

Still, there are some things going on in Maryland I want to share with you. I think I will just list them.

1. We have a friend, fellow four wheeler, promoted to a high position in the Maryland DNR. I will leave it at that, for. A great gentleman and I sure do not want to bring the wrong kind of attention his way. In time, that will happen, anyway. For now, congratulations!
2. Another very good friend and outstanding forest manager, Mr. John Denning, of the Potomac/Garrett State Forest was recently promoted or loaded up on, I suppose. As he is also now the Forest Manager of the Savage River State Forest. This is all very recent news, so John is still settling in. I hope to run some ideas past Ranger Denning in the fairly near future, but for now, he has plenty on his plate.

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

President's Message

From the desk of the President of the Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association

Larry Pope

MAFWDA President

It was a busy summer for the Association and its member clubs. PA Jeeps, www.pajeeps.org, held another successful All Breeds Jeep Show in York, PA. Capital Off Road Enthusiasts (CORE), www.core4x4.org, held or participated in several trail rides and other activities. Preston Stevens, MAFWDA Director of Conservation and Land Use, participated in a few if not a lot of meetings and seminars concerning OHV trail use in Maryland and has been keeping track of the issue with NJ trail closures and the George Washington National Forest Plan. Please read Preston's Land Use News contained within this newsletter. MAFWDA also picked up another business supporter over the summer, Steinjäger, Inc (www.steinjager.com). Browse their web page, they have some great stuff.

This past summer NJ Department of Environmental Protection, www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests, held meetings and/or plan to hold meetings for stakeholders and the general public on the trail closure issue in the Wharton State Forest. I know MD and PA have had meetings in the past and posted surveys on their respective web sites and have asked for the public's comments on allowing ORV access to state forests and park lands. There are canned letter templates out on the UFWDA web page at www.ufwda.org. All you have to do is change the name of who the letter is being sent to and be a little bit of a word-smith for the issue in your particular state. As someone once stated; "this isn't a poetry contest, the most important thing is that you send a note/email expressing your concerns." So get in there and help us help you.

I sent out the notice to all the Association clubs to submit their nomination packages for MAFWDA 2015 Club of the Year. Your nomination packages are due to Mike Vincenty, Secretary@mafwd.org, not later than October 12, 2015. Voting will be taking place at the MAFWDA Annual Meeting currently scheduled for November 7, 2015 starting at 11:00 am at Mountain Gate Restaurant in

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■ Land Use

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3. Myself and others from the Maryland OHV Alliance met at Rocky Gap in late July at the DNR sponsored OHV Stake Holders Meeting. While things are naturally moving slower than we all would like to see. There is great news in the works.
 - a. St. Johns Rock OHV area is progressing. Mind you, it is behind, as the original design was scrapped for a much better layout, for us and OHV in general. It will feature a campground, for dry camping, but will handle good size trailers. There will even be a place for the youngsters to play. There will be a "rock crawl" section. There will be some single track and some two track trails that we can use. Not a ton of mileage, mind you. But, this is a great start. This area is located just over the Allegany-Garrett County line.
 - b. I honestly cannot go into detail publicly with the details of another potential great piece of news. But, if this comes together, it could be every bit as much as the old Paragon. So many folks would benefit if this happens! While it is far from a done deal, the outlook is extremely positive. I will tell you, as it stands, we are looking at in the neighborhood of a 3,000 acre tract of land to play and camp on.
 - c. This search for places for us to wheel will in the future spread to the Eastern Shore of Maryland.
 - d. Another thing that is in the works is seeking our partnerships with private land owners, especially Coal Companies in the two western Maryland counties. Remember, when they stop mining in a part of their property, nature reclaims it. Think of Rausch Creek. There are many thousands of acres of private mining property in Western Maryland is laying ideal.
4. Ken Kyler and some AMA folks have already met with the new Secretary of the DNR. The meeting went well. For now, let's just say the outlook is better than I can ever remember.
5. The Maryland Recreation Trails Meeting went very nicely, other than there were not private motorized project requests. Still, the DNR did put in for some legitimate motorized requests, mostly for maintenance. In time, St. John's Rock will likely be partly funded by RTP money.

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■ President's Message

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Thurmont, MD. I will be sending out more info via email to all on the meeting and such. We are still looking for volunteers to step up and nominate themselves or nominate someone they know for the MAFWDA Board of Directors positions of Treasurer and Director of Events and Public Relations. The elections will be held at the meeting in November.

Everyone have fun on the trails that we do have access to and by all means be safe. Send those letters and emails to your respective state representatives. Don't be one who benefits by doing nothing.

Larry Pope ❖



Larry Pope is the MAFWDA President.

2015 Potomac State Forest Outing

Preston Stevens

MAFWDA Director of Conservation and Land Use

Well, you have heard the phrase, "Man you should have been there." Well, that was certainly the case for the Annual Potomac State Forest Trailride/Campout.....!

While the turn out, well, wasn't. Okay, not really so. Tom and Deb Taylor were there, as were two of my daughters and son-in-law.

As you may recall, May, June and July were unusually wet and even more so up there. So much so, wheeling was in doubt, until about a week before that weekend. It rained just a bit that Wednesday night, but just a little bit. Then we were good to go until about 15 minutes after we got back to camp Saturday evening. Still, not enough to hurt anything. I mean we did have to do a dance back and forth from the campfire to back under the trailer canopy for about an hour. Then it stopped and all was good.

So, Pam, Ranger and I arrived on Tuesday. No issues at all coming up, other than a road closed sign on Audrey Riley Road for road work. Well, we were good to go through and we did. The campsite looked great

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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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www.riverraider.com

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717-262-3079

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www.mountzionoffroad.com

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Dover, PA 17315
717-308-1844

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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

■ Land Use

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6. In Virginia, Dave Hook has filed an appeal on the proposed George Washington National Forest Plan. He has been trying to set up a meeting with the Forest Supervisor. He has agreed to meet. It is just putting that together.
7. In New Jersey, there is a move to close a bunch of the Pine Barrens trails. NJ closure of 231 miles of trails in Wharton tract. I do not have any more information at this time. If any of you have more information, we then could get the word out and try to help those folks.

If you want to help the cause, by all means, write your elected officials and your land managers. Tell these folks exactly what you want. Green Ridge OHV roads being closed bug you. Politely let them all know how you feel. The DNR and the State is feeling the pressure. We need to apply more.

One more thing. Watch and pay attention to these folks running for public office. Look at their recent past. Weight out things. Then again, listen to them. Watch their body language. Of course, if their nose grows real big, that is because they are a politician. "It is what they do." Still, when it is time, get out and vote.

Everyone have a great fall season! Please share your wheeling trips with Mike, so he can share them with us.

Preston ❖



Preston Stevens is the MAFWDA Director of Conservation & Land Use. He is also a member of PA Jeeps.

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 – Larry Pope
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

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

CORE

October 9-11, 2015

Outer Banks Trip
Contact: Andrew Taylor
Email: taylor@core4x4.org
Web site: <http://www.core4x4.org>

PA JEEP CLUB MEETING

October 11, 2015

Contact: Jennifer Watson
Email: events@pajeeps.org
Web site: <http://www.pajeeps.org>

BIG DOGS

October 17-18, 2015

Fall Crawl
Email: johnhuntpilot@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://bigdogsoffroad.com>

9TH ANNUAL MASON-DIXON WILLYS JEEP GATHERING

October 25, 2015

Contact: Mike Hardesty
Email: admin@jeepchasm.com
Web site: <http://jeepchasm.com>

JEEP JAMBOREE

November 5-7, 2015

White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
Email: jeepjam@jeepjam.com
Web site: <http://jeepjamboreeusa.com>

■ 2015 Potomac State Forest Outing

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this year! The DNR staff had mowed the grass in much of the site. NO trash at all. Nothing broken!!!

So, we got set up, and then later on took a ride down to Laurel Run. It never disappoints. That night was a 3 blanket night. Brrrr.

Wednesday, Pam and I visited a childhood friend of my sister and I, Susan Sissler. We have not really spoken since I was about 12 or 13 years old. She has a neat piece of property and cabin not too far from Cranesville, W.Va. Tons of memories were rekindled. We had a nice lunch outside and then she showed us some neat "county" four wheel drive only, roads. Her wealth of information about various plants and the wildlife around there was awesome. She and Pam were great friends very quickly.

Okay, do you know why you often will see a donkey with a herd of cattle?

Well, you know there are a lot of coyotes and bobcat in that area now. Donkeys will chase off predators. That's neat stuff.

Thursday, we got squared away with our wheeling and camping at the headquarters. As always, Mrs. Joyce Stoner was extremely helpful.

Oh, by the way, John Denning, the Potomac/Garrett State Forest Manager is also now, the Savage River State Forest Manager. Congratulations!

Then we took the boat out onto Jennings/Randolph Lake. This place is beautiful and very peaceful. While

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MAFWDA ANNUAL MEETING

November 7, 11:30 AM – 1PM

Mountain Gate Restaurant
133 Frederick Road
Thurmont, MD 21788

Phone: 301-271-4373
<http://mountaingatefamilyrestaurant.com/>

Contact: President@mafwd.org
Web site: <http://www.mafwd.org>

CORE

November 27-28, 2015

Black Friday Trail Ride
Contact: Andrew Taylor
Email: taylor@core4x4.org
Web site: <http://www.core4x4.org>

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

Chaos Offroad Park

Andrew Taylor

CORE President

One of the many benefits to joining an off-roading club or attending off-roading events is the connections you make with like-minded people, clubs, and organizations. During the PA Jeeps Show, CORE made a connection with Chaos Fab Shop (<http://chaosfabshop.com/>) and the owners, AK and Maria. The guys over at Chaos have worked on some of our member's rigs and we love having such a great fab shop so close to the D.C. metro area. Chaos has a connection with a local land owner in Capon Bridge, WV that has worked with them to create the Chaos Offroad Park (<http://chaosoffroadpark.com>) – 400 acres of trails that are like a skate park for 4x4s! The park is open for pre-arranged event weekends all year, except during hunting season. Although CORE was going to miss the last planned event of the season, AK and Maria were itching to throw one last event before the season officially ended. And so a few clubs, friends, and family were invited out to the “Splash, Bash, and Crawl” event!

CORE members who attended:

- Andrew and Cherie Taylor (Silver Xterra)
- Robert Rixham and Fred Granruth (Silver 4Runner)
- Roland Thro (Blue FJ Cruiser)

CORE guests:

- Erik and Danielle Ramseth (White Patriot)

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Off-Roaders Welcome Decision Not to List Greater Sage Grouse as Endangered Species

Reprint: www.sema.org

By SEMA Washington, D.C., Staff

The U.S. Department of Interior decided that public-private conservation efforts have successfully eliminated the need to list the greater sage grouse as endangered. The announcement is a victory for the off-roading community since an Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing would have led to road and trail closures on the bird's 165-million-acre habitat across 11 western states.

In recent years, federal and state governments have worked with local communities, private landowners and industry to develop comprehensive voluntary efforts to protect the habitat. SEMA welcomes an approach that focuses on establishing small recovery zones in cooperation with private and public landowners. The traditional ESA listing focuses on closing large tracks

of land rather than protective management, which then leads to lawsuits. This marks the second such victory this year.

In April, the Interior Department determined that voluntary conservation efforts were enough to protect the California and Nevada based bi-state sage grouse and removed the bird from the ESA's “threatened” list.

For more information, contact Eric Snyder at erics@sema.org.

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 fourwheel 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 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.

Is “Wilderness” Stealing Our Heritage?

Del Albright

BlueRibbon Ambassador

Being a full time land use/access advocate, I hear a lot of opinions about the management of public lands, many of them spot on; some of them a bit out there. But this one really made me step back and think. Is the designation of Wilderness areas stealing our heritage?

The original Wilderness Act of 1964 was not bad legislation. In fact, most organized recreation groups supported the idea of setting aside pristine, “untouched” landscapes and leaving them non-accessible by motors and mountain bikes. We need places untouched by man, unmarked by the scars of development.

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■ Chaos Offroad Park

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- Toby Turpin (Blue Cherokee Trailhawk)
- Stephen Rappe (White Xterra)

Since CORE had never been out to Chaos Offroad Park, and Chaos is trying to get the word out about how great it is, we decided to take lots of pictures and document exactly what people can expect when coming to Chaos Offroad Park. The park is very family-oriented and is very communal. At the time that we went, a day pass is \$45/driver and \$10/passenger, age 13 and up. If you want to wheel for the whole weekend, the cost is \$65/driver and \$10/passenger, age 13 and up – and that includes camping on the property!



The camping and main staging area is a giant clearing with several camping fields large enough for big groups and trailers (but no hookups). They bring out plenty of porta-johns. There are also plenty of hotels close to the park. While there are no individual campfire rings, there is one large communal campfire in the center for all to enjoy. The park is only a few miles from town so you are never too far from gas or food. There is a Liberty gas station at the Capon Valley Market just 6 miles up the road that has everything you could possibly want – gas station, a food counter, hardware store, and even a mini taxidermy museum – it is West Virginia after all!

The property is extremely beautiful – very lush and green! The trails up the mountain can be steep and rocky, providing a fun challenge for stock vehicles and newbies.

We arrived at the park Friday night and, after a quick check-in with AK and Maria, we set up camp in site #2. The county has a rule that you can't park or drive your vehicle inside your campsite at night, so once you finish setting up camp, you need to park your vehicle just outside your campsite. That night they had a small group go up on the mountain for a night run, but the CORE members were exhausted and decided to get a good night's sleep.

Saturday morning we headed over to the "staging area" – which is basically AK and Maria's camper – and checked in for the 9 am driver's meeting. Here

they give you a rundown of the park and the rules, and give you recommendations on which trails your rig can manage.

The park is set up like a skate park – with a stocker-friendly loop going around the entirety of the property. This allows mixed groups to go together and enjoy the entire park, letting built-up rigs play on the big obstacles and stock vehicles always have options for bypassing. In the morning they planned on splitting us up in to groups led by trail guides in order to show us around the park and so we could familiarize ourselves with the trail system. These trail guides are always available to take groups up during the weekend, but once your group has a good feel for the park, they allow you to go up without a guide as long as you have two or more vehicles and recovery gear. CORE members joined the 1 & 2 groups, which mostly stayed together for the rest of the day.

The property is extremely beautiful – very lush and green! The trails up the mountain can be steep and rocky, providing a fun challenge for stock vehicles and newbies. There are plenty of opportunities for more built-up rigs to play all along the trails – and if you see something you want to try, most obstacles loop back around to the main trails so it's easy to rejoin the group. They've even created various obstacles that you won't find naturally like series of moguls, made of various natural materials and different heights, just scattered throughout the park. The land owner, John, loves 4x4s and even came out on the trails with his Jeep and joined a few of the groups. You are free to roam a bit off-trail if you see something that might be fun – but you should still hold to the principles of Tread Lightly and respecting the opportunity to play on this amazing property. They have their map uploaded to the Maplets app, so if you are looking for a great way to follow the trails and know where the obstacles are, we highly recommend downloading that!



We spent the morning exploring the property and being shown where all of the obstacles were. We first hit Sinkhole – which has a fun dip for someone with a slight lift. We spent a while at the Gloryhole obstacle which is basically a pit with many entrances and exits – some challenging for a built up rig and some challenging for a stock vehicle. Definitely fun for the whole group! We ate lunch on top of the mountain at Sandy Ridge. The weather is much cooler up there

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■ Chaos Offroad Park

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and the breeze is amazing – it's a great place to stop for lunch and is big enough for a huge group to park off-trail. Unfortunately it doesn't have much of a view in the summer, but we imagine it would be beautiful in the winter. In the afternoon we spend some time in Eckoh Rock Garden and watched the more built-up rigs tackle the rocks. And we took a very fun trail up the mountain called Off Limits, which was extremely rocky and maybe a tad too much for the low, stock vehicles. Since the park isn't well known yet, they haven't had much of an opportunity to see non-Wranglers tackle the obstacles. Everyone had a blast watching the Xterras, Cherokee Trailhawks, 4Runner, and a Patriot give them a try.

Saturday evening we decided to go into town to a little restaurant that AK swore had a steak that would change our lives. Sounded pretty good after a day of wheelin! It's called That Place, and it was delicious! That night the guides decided to go on a night run and a bunch of the guys from CORE decided to jump in Andrew's Xterra and ride along. They did the big loop of the park, including some steep/rocky hill climbs and wash outs. They had a great time. When they got back to camp, Chaos set up the huge bonfire and had it raging into the early hours of the morning.

Sunday we felt like we had a pretty good handle on the park and decided to venture out on our own. On our way up the mountain, AK popped up in front of us and led us up to Poser Rock -a huge rock that is basically a ramp that allows for a great photo op for most trucks. He helped Stephen in the Xterra (with no lift!) up on the rock and got some awesome pics.



And even taught him a thing or two about how to nudge up the rock face by only feathering the clutch (no gas! no gas!). After that we decided to leisurely ride the stocker-friendly loop popping in and out to enjoy various obstacles and watch other groups playing on the obstacles. We decided to take it easy and just enjoy the morning ride – hoping to head out around lunch time.

On our way out we stopped in at the owner's house – which is just near the main entrance to the trail system. He has set up an airing up station on the side of his garage that will inflate all four tires at once in under a

minute! There is a small donation box next to the station to thank him for installing it. After packing up we said our goodbyes and thanked AK and Maria for an amazing weekend! They even invited us to go with them to the next park over which has an amazing swimming hole fed by a natural spring, game rooms, canoes, etc. (only \$10/person or \$15/family). But unfortunately we had to get back home – maybe next time! And the best part of leaving was that it's only an hour and a half ride back to the DC metro area!!

We had an amazing time at Chaos Offroad Park and can't wait to go back. The property is beautiful with a variety of great trails and the atmosphere and mindset of the entire park is right up our alley! We love that you can ride together in groups that have both stock and built rigs – and BOTH have fun on the same trails. We love how family-oriented the park was and that everyone came together to ride the trails and sit around the campfire at night. But we also loved that you could go out with a smaller group and ride independently without worrying about breaking unnecessary rules, accidentally taking the wrong trail, or getting yourself in over your head like you might at other parks. As long as you are respectful of the property and the safety of yourself and the people around you – you will have a GREAT time at Chaos. And it's so close to home!! The owners have a lot of big plans for this park, and we can't wait to see what they come up with in the future.

Andrew Taylor ❖

MAFWDA Online Store

Get your MAFWDA merchandise here!

Did you know that Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association has an online store? Here you can purchase great MAFWDA branded merchandise on the online store. Tee-shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs; we got it all!

<http://www.cafepress.com/mafwda>

This month's featured item.



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Member Clubs



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Shrewsbury, Pa 17361-0212 717-309-0513

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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@mafwd.org for information on how your club can join and contribute to MAFWDA.

■ Wilderness

from page 5

President Teddy Roosevelt started the first official beginning of "preserving" scenic wonders on a national level; but have we now gone too far?

I have heard accounts of official agency personnel setting fire to historical buildings and mining camps, just because these treasures all of a sudden were behind some line created on a map that said they were now in Wilderness areas and needed to be removed so there would be no trace of man.

I have personally seen the results of agency "rehabilitation" of mining camps, historical buildings, and historic roads -- rehabilitation being the removal thereof. I have interviewed youth work crews hiking into new Wilderness areas, under orders from the park agency personnel, with the job of "removing any trace of man." Doubly unfortunate is that these same areas harbored hundreds of miles of roads and historic mining camps that were thought to be of value just the year before a new Wilderness designation.

I have lost track of the number of cabins and homesteads I have personally visited that are no longer accessible by vehicle -- and many of which were *obliterated.* In so many cases, Wilderness designation has meant historical destruction.

One park ranger type official tried to tell me that in his area, buildings just fall down from lack of maintenance and attention, once they are in Wilderness areas. I understood that, but he didn't have an answer for me when I asked him how the material (wood and artifacts) all disappeared also, and how the area where the building stood now has planted vegetation (rehabilitation?) and no sign of occupation or use.

How about the fact that we're not supposed to use motors or mechanized equipment to fight wildfires in some Wilderness areas? In the 1964 Wilderness areas, this is not a big deal. Here we're talking high country -- high mountains, pristine places where there are no subdivisions nearby. But new Wilderness can be in your back yard today.

The old guidelines of "no trace of mankind; pristine; untouched" are meaningless in today's application of Wilderness. So when a large conflagration starts tearing up the countryside (in Wilderness), we're not supposed to drive fire engines into the brush and timbered areas where the fire is burning. We're not supposed to crank up chainsaws to fight the fire. We're not supposed to fly helicopters into or around the Wilderness area as that constitutes using motorized equipment.

Helicopters routinely fly into a world famous Wilderness area, named after a world famous environmentalist, to service man-made bathrooms (contact me if you'd like to read the documentation on

this). It's OK to fly and land a copter into Wilderness to service a bathroom, but we can't fight fire with one?

You will find plenty of folks who will justify flying a helicopter into one Wilderness area to service a bathroom, just as you will find plenty of folks who would march in protest against flying helicopters to fight fire in an Oregon Wilderness area. Does this seem arbitrary and capricious to you?

In reality, even the 1964 Wilderness Act left room for maneuvering and in the opinion of some folks, manipulation. Existing and previous uses can be accommodated in today's Wilderness areas, depending on the slant of the current management. So yes, we can leave old historic mining buildings in one Wilderness, and tear them down in another.

At some point, we have to ask ourselves the real purpose behind new Wilderness areas. Who is getting something out of this? Because when they steal my heritage, take down the homestead that maybe your family once lived in, try to remove roads, trails and all traces of our historical presence, it just begs the question of who is benefiting?

Further, you have to ask, who is the goose and who is the gander here? Do we manage Wilderness based on convenience? Do we manage Wilderness based on one ranger's bias? What gives?

Allow me to add to add one last twist; our country has millions of acres of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) that are under consideration for Wilderness designation. Some WSA's have been around for over ten years. Some have already been converted to Wilderness. Few have gone away.

I urge you to keep a careful eye on WSA's in your area. It matters not that a WSA has roads. It matters not that your great grandparents might have had a homestead there. I suggest you talk to your elected representatives about WSA's in your area. They are prime targets for future Wilderness designations.

I believe that people like Teddy Roosevelt, most of our US Congress folks, and many of our country's leaders were well-intentioned in the creation of some of our parks, preserves and 1964 Wilderness areas. But somewhere along the way, "special interest groups" and a few people in powerful positions, have twisted the usage constraints of our public lands into something ugly.

It is time to speak out against this outrage. It is time to stand up for our heritage. It is time to hold accountable those that promote their own agenda under the guise of saving our heritage while tearing down the remnants of our past. It's your time. Get connected with the process and your elected officials, and be sure that Wilderness is where it belongs. Don't sit by while someone steals your heritage or endangers the safety of your home. ❖

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■ Wilderness

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Del Albright is an internationally published columnist, BlueRibbon Coalition Ambassador and Environmental Affairs Coordinator for CA4WDC. He has authored volumes over the last 20 years on land use, outdoor recreation, and access. Contact BRC at 800.258.3742 or www.sharetrails.org; or visit Del's web site at www.delalbright.com.

Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative Announces Second Quarter GRANT Awards

Reprint:

<http://www.stocknewsnow.com/newsrss/2055487-Consumer%20Goods>

KENNESAW, GA--(Marketwired - September 15, 2015) - Yamaha Motor Corp., USA, today announced the second quarter 2015 GRANT (Guaranteeing Responsible Access to our Nation's Trails) recipients from the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative. Nearly \$60,000 was contributed this quarter to eight projects supporting the program's industry-leading dedication to safe, responsible riding and open sustainable access to land, trails and riding areas for OHV users.

"Riding clubs, public land agencies and conservation organizations continue to reach out to the Outdoor Access Initiative for support in expanding, maintaining and protecting access to OHV riding opportunities," said Mike Martinez, Yamaha's ATV/SxS group Vice President. "The scope of projects this quarter include clearly marking trails through up-to-date signage, trail maintenance, and installation of drainage systems and directional signage to create sustainable and legal access to OHV trail riding."

The following organizations received consideration in this funding cycle of the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative:

Alvwood Squaw Lake ATV Club - Blackduck, Minnesota
Cowlitz Basin ORV Club - Randal, Washington
Fort Riley Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (DFMWR) - Fort Riley, Kansas
Indian Valley Creek ATV Club - White, Pennsylvania
Jones Creek Trail Riders Association - Camas, Washington
La Paz County - Arizona
Wilderness Wheelers ATV Club - Bigfork, Minnesota
Yampa Valley OHV Trailriders Club - Craig, Colorado

Riding clubs, outdoor enthusiast associations, land managers and conservationists can find information about the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative at www.yamahaoutdooraccess.com. In addition to

downloading and reviewing the GRANT guidelines for submission, visitors can submit an application with the required attachments directly to the online platform. Yamaha continues to seek qualified projects and applications at local, state and federal levels. The next deadline to submit a GRANT application is Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015.

About the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative

The Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative is the industry leader in Guaranteeing Responsible Access to our Nation's Trails (GRANTs). Through this program, Yamaha has directly and indirectly supported thousands of miles of trails, maintained and rehabilitated countless riding areas, improved staging areas, built bridges over fish-bearing streams and partnered with local riding communities across the country to improve the OHV experience. Each quarter, Yamaha accepts applications from non-profit or tax-exempt organizations including OHV riding clubs and associations, national, state and local public land use agencies, outdoor enthusiast associations and land conservation groups with an interest in protecting, improving, expanding and/or maintaining access for safe, responsible and sustainable use by motorized off-road vehicles. A committee then reviews each application and awards GRANTs to deserving projects. Examples of appropriate projects for GRANTs include, but are not limited to:

Trail development, restoration and maintenance
Trail signage and map production
Staging area construction, renovation and maintenance
Land stewardship, safety and education

Updated guidelines, an application form and information on the Outdoor Access Initiative are available here. For specific questions about the Outdoor Access Initiative, call Yamaha's dedicated hotline at 1-877-OHV-TRAIL (877-648-8724), email OHVAccess@yamaha-motor.com or write to:

Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative Review Committee
6555 Katella Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-5101

Quote

"The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively." **[Bob Marley]**

"My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time." **[Steve Jobs]**

"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries." **[Winston Churchill]**

■ 2015 Potomac State Forest Outing

from page 3

only a few fish were caught and not by me, we had an excellent time. As I like to say. I was "in my element."

There is nothing like eating a dinner prepared over a campfire. It was awesome.

Friday, more boating and fishing for the guys. No fish, though. So what, it still beat a good day at work.

Saturday went extremely well. RATTLESNAKE RIDGE ROAD IS STILL THERE AND PASSABLE. Okay, for us. We went in from the top. Cleared a bunch of downed trees, in actually, fairly short order. Only a few things on Ramsey Road and nothing nasty. We went down and turned around and drove up, without any issues, at all. Well, okay, we all got some wicked brush rash. You know, the good kind!

We had lunch, relaxed and then did the Snowmobile Loop Road. Here we had 3 large and one was very complexed trees to move. Still, we handled that as a team and made fast work of that. There is one wash that most of us made come sort of contact with. Still, no damage. Mind you, Emily's stock XJ sort of flattened out some of that ditch with her receiver hitch.

An awesome evening around the campfire.

Sunday was the sad good byes. Everyone hated to go, other than Pam, Ranger and I. We stayed! Pam and I took a very enjoyable ride and relaxed.

Monday, we got squared away at the headquarters, then stopped at the "bent and dent" grocery store. We always do. We find neat deals and stuff there, each year. Then we took an outstanding ride through the county. Absolutely fantastic! Beautiful! Old school farming, acres and acres of sunflowers, corn, soybean, woods over and over again. What dreams are made of.

Then Pam and I went back and got the boat and once again went out on Jennings. This time, I managed to catch a few fish. We stayed out until after dark. As luck would have it, I burnt out my bow light. Pam held our flood light under the deck to light up the front of the boat so we could be seen. But, once we left the fishing spot, there was no one to see us. What a place.

Tuesday was to be heavy rain, as we Wednesday, so we packed up one day early. Still, all in all, what a great time.

If I can pull it off next year, I am looking to go back to July. The weather seems to be better then. Dryer, less humidity and the days are longer. A real plus. Yet, it is not hot where we camp.

I would like to hear from you that are interested in going next summer. Pam and I want to visit family in Florida next spring. I am not 100% sure we can do both. But, if there is enough interest, I certainly would look hard to find a way!

Preston ❖

Director of Conservation and Land Use

Jeep's Wrangler-based Pickup

Reprint: <http://www.digitaltrends.com/cars/jeep-wrangler-pickup-specs-news-rumors>

A concept that turned into rumors has now turned into production plans for a Jeep Wrangler-based pickup due in the next couple years.

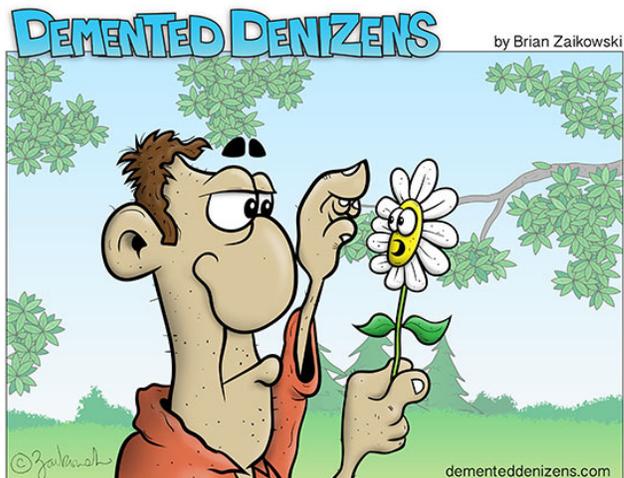
In 2005, Jeep introduced the Gladiator concept based on the RAM 1500 platform, and since then, rumors have been circulating about whether Jeep would actually produce a modern pickup to follow in the footsteps of a slew of previous trucks like the CJ-10, Gladiator, Honcho, Comanche, and others. This would be the second Wrangler-based pickup after the CJ-8 Scrambler and the first in over three decades.

Automotive News is reporting that Wrangler production will remain in Toledo, Ohio for the next generation and the pickup variant will be built alongside the two and four-door versions. The Cherokee will move to Michigan or Illinois.

Specifics on the pickup are unclear, but it will borrow aluminum parts from the next-gen Wrangler along with a diesel and small turbocharged four-cylinder engine for improved fuel economy. Size-wise, expect the Wrangler pickup to compete with small to midsize offerings like the Chevy Colorado, GMC Canyon, and Toyota Tacoma.

This begs the question of whether Dodge still plans to introduce a reborn Durango that would fit within the same segment. Considering how rapidly the small truck market is growing, it could make sense for FCA to have more than one offering, similar to GM.

FCA plans for the 2018 Jeep Wrangler to sell 350,000 units per year through all its variants. The pickup version may be introduced around the same time as the two and four-door 2018 Wrangler in 2017, or FCA might decide to hold off until 2018. ❖



Whoa, Man! Stop right there! She loves you, okay?

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