

# Protecting Public Land FOR the People Not FROM the People



WINTER 2021

# Off-Roaders in Action

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# 2020 Has Been Quite a Year!

**KEN CLARKE**

**With the help of the coming vaccines, I hope we'll achieve herd immunity in our population. In the meantime, if we all use our common sense and practice good hygiene, maintaining social distance and wearing a mask when needed, 2021 may actually turn out pretty well.**

But even with all the temporary closures causing disruption of our old ways of life, I see some positives emerging from this difficult time. Now that all public meetings are being held online, we have seen a great increase in the numbers of members in the OHV community speaking at these meetings.

the OHMVR Commission. SB 249 made the OHMVR Division permanent division of State Parks, but the OHMVR Commission was not included in the bill at that time. As it stands today, our OHMVR Commission approves General Plans for SRVA's but otherwise is only advisory when it comes to everything from operations to policy. As a result, the greater OHV Community has been criticizing up the OHMVR Commissioners, when they actually have very little control over decision-making for the OHMVR Division.

I must say the Commissioners have been taking it very well, though it's not really fair.

CORVA has always been fiscally conservative, and due to your efforts CORVA is solvent. In return, we ask our members to support our many business sponsors. This year, they really need your patronage!

Because of this change, I have also noticed the quality of the comments has greatly improved. Important questions are being asked directly to responsible officials, quoting facts and promoting alternatives to our most pressing issues. Please give yourselves a gold star!

Personally, I must say that I miss direct interactions with responsible officials. Maybe when we go back to face-to-face meetings, we can still have the option of using Zoom. This would help boost attendance for those that would otherwise find it difficult to travel around the state.

In 2021 CORVA will again be working with State Parks and legislators to come up with a bill to reauthorize

It is my opinion that we need the people within all departments and divisions, including the Department of Natural Resources, State Parks and the OHMVR Division, to attend Commission meetings and be held accountable to the public.

With all the off-road events being canceled this year, a large source of revenue has disappeared and many off-road organizations are struggling. I want to personally thank all CORVA's Members and Business Sponsors for their generosity which has helped keep CORVA solvent.

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# Managing Director's Report

## AMY GRANAT

### **As 2020 comes to a close, it's difficult to expound on the many ways that COVID-19 has profoundly affected the off-road world.**

Many of our time-honored events were canceled, but outdoor recreation enthusiasts still found ways to enjoy the fresh air while traveling around our California forests and deserts. Off-road recreation is known for its ability to clear the mind and refresh the soul. OHV and OSV enthusiasts have not only taken to federal and state land to enjoy time to themselves, but have also assisted both agencies clearing and cleaning roads, trails and areas. Off-roaders have always been known for their generosity and volunteer spirit, and during this year many groups, clubs and individuals found ways to contribute to society's greater good.

As far as advocacy efforts are concerned, this year was busier than ever! Many of us were worried when in-person meetings changed to an online format. But this change has resulted in great increases in participation from off-roaders in the advocacy process. Previously, few people could take off from work and travel to areas around the state to attend meetings and make public comments. But online meetings can be accessed through cell phones and tablets, and have proven much simpler for everyone to call in and have a voice! In years past, approximately 20 to 30 people would commonly attend an Off Highway Motorized Vehicle Recreation Commission meeting, but the last meeting saw almost 90 people call in during public comment. This is great news for all concerned, both decision makers and off-road enthusiasts.

Off-roaders continue to be subject to unfair and biased mischaracterization by our opponents on key issues we're fighting around the state. It is hard and frustrating to hear the numerous mistruths repeated in the press, on social media and during public comment. CORVA stands ready at all times to defend off-roaders, and have taken this battle to the highest levels of government. We want you to know that we share your pain and frustration and are always advocating on our member's and our community's behalf.

To paraphrase Charles Dickens in the Tale of Two Cities, 2020 was the best of times and the worst of times. But we know that off-roaders possess the courage and fortitude that finds a way to shine no matter what the circumstances! We're looking forward to meeting you all on the trail in 2021.

### **CORVA Advocacy Efforts**

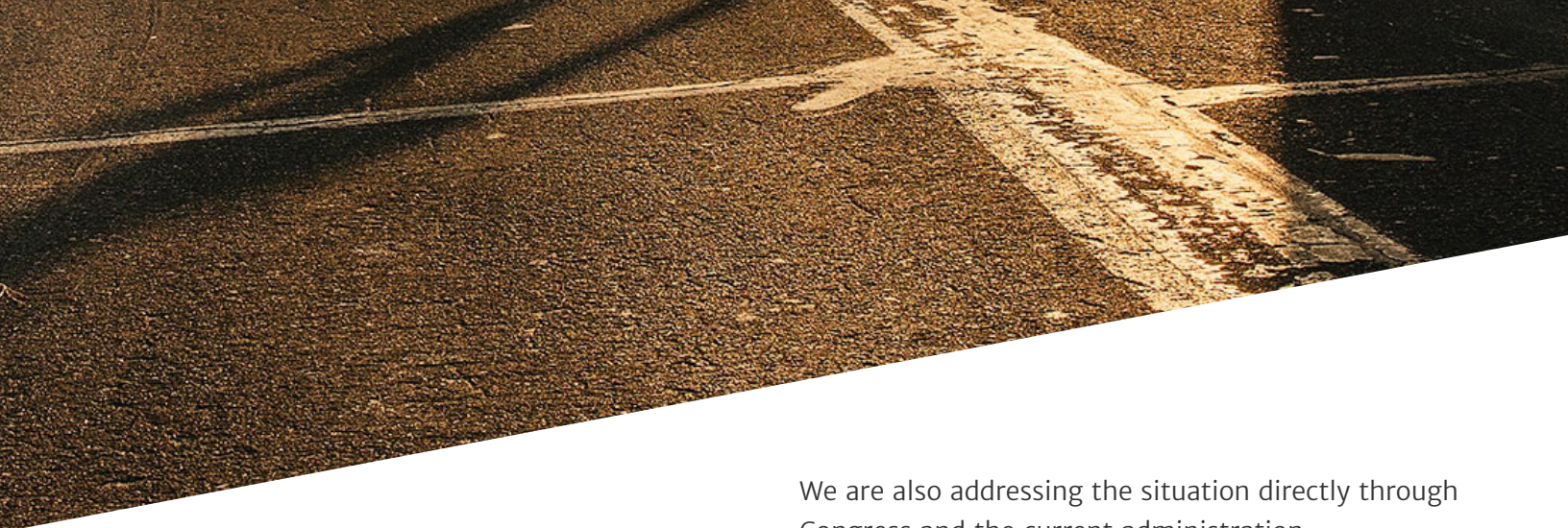
CORVA is involved in land use efforts around the state, working at the highest levels of state and federal government to preserve, promote and protect all forms of motorized recreation in California. Whether it's snowmobiling in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, or rock crawling in Johnson Valley, CORVA's team of land use advocates gives off-roaders a voice.

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### **Forest Service**

Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Collaborative: CORVA represents all motorized access on this group that meets quarterly with the Forest Service to discuss sustainable activities on Forest Service land. It's critical that CORVA take part in these meetings so everyone has access to roads and trails, including hunters, anglers and rockhounds as well as traditional forms of Off Highway Vehicle recreation.

Northwest Forest Plan Revisions, Public Engagement Working Group: 19 forest from northern California, Oregon and Washington will be updating their forest plans during the next few years. Generally, forests update their plans in groups of 2 to 3 forests at one time, the effort to update plans for 19 forests at one time is unprecedented. As well, the Forest Service has not been including many representatives from motorized recreation communities. CORVA is the only motorized recreation representative in this effort which will ultimately create a plan every forest will refer to when it comes to opening and closing roads and trails.

Travel Management: CORVA has submitted a petition to the Department of Agriculture along with partners from 15 organizations in 8 states representing 20,000 individuals to rewrite the Travel Management Rule.

We are also addressing the situation directly through Congress and the current administration.

Travel Management, Subpart C: Snowmobile access is being analyzed on 5 forests in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. CORVA has been involved with the Sierra Snowmobile Foundation pushing a pro-access agenda and trying to save snowmobile access on federal lands.

### **State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation**

Many of our State Vehicular Recreation Areas are under attack as development encroaches our parks. We have to protect our parks! All our SVRA's need advocacy and protection, but especially Oceano Dunes and Carnegie, which are both under serious threat. These are long-term efforts by anti-access groups to close our parks, which are critically important to families and children.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

CORVA has board members on the California Desert District Advisory Council, working on issues that arise throughout California desert areas from Calico, Johnson Valley, Jawbone and other popular off-road and rockhounding areas. CORVA was the recreation representative for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, which is still in flux as the government defines appropriate areas for placement of renewable energy facilities, and making sure these are not located in recreation areas.

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CORVA has always been fiscally conservative, and due to your efforts CORVA is solvent. In return, we ask our members to support our many business sponsors. This year, they really need your patronage! And visit the CORVA store for some swag!

What CORVA really needs in the coming year is to fill our vacant Board of Directors positions, including Vice President of Administration and Secretary. We also need a Volunteer to assist the editor with CORVA's newsletter. Our Managing Director, Amy Granat, is doing more Forest Service, State Parks and working with our legislative agenda than ever and CORVA needs assistance with our administrative duties.

I will be running for re-election as president of CORVA Spring of 2021 but I also invite anyone that would like to become President to throw your hat in the ring! If I am reelected it will be my last term as your president per our by-laws.

Please remember the closures of our public lands due to COVID are temporary and can change at any time. CORVA is working to get everything opened in conjunction with federal and state agencies. Do your part by staying healthy! I am looking forward to when we can all get together and enjoy riding and driving. Happy Holidays, and let's all wish for a wonderful new year.





# Wrapping up the 2020 Season for VORRA

**I'm still not even sure how we pulled off a successful race season amid a pandemic, wildfires, murder hornets... and then there's the election. And yet, 2020 had two of the largest races in VORRA's 45-year history.**

While it was a condensed season because of those challenges, it didn't feel like less of a racing experiencing. The Fallon 250 brought a large number of racers, including Cameron Steele, one of the most well-known off-road racers of all time. It was blisteringly hot but made for a great start to the season!

The Yerington 300 continued at the same fever inducing pace on Labor Day weekend. Racers came from far and wide came to show off what they had been working on during lock down, and it did not disappoint! In total eighty-seven entry's competed for over \$7,500 in prize money.

Last but not least to round out the season, was the Fight at Fort Sage. The weather barked back this time with a cold snap and snow! Who doesn't love desert racing in the snow!? This year's track at Fort Sage OHV Park in Doyle CA, was extended to just over 15 miles. It makes for a unique experience, combining some of the perks of short course racing with desert racing track. While the snow fell, the hot cocoa flowed, and a good time was had by all! Forty-five racers took the green flag for not only the last race, but the overall season championship. The competition was fierce!

Among the trophies and checks that were awarded, was a special surprise from C.O.R.V.A.

A \$300 donation had been given to use for an award at VORRA's choosing. What a gracious gift! The

recipient was Broc Ross and his codriver Andrew Quigley, of Ross Racing #7252. They suffered an unfortunate incident, where their race truck rolled going 95mph. Thank goodness for well-built trucks and safety equipment! However, Andrew broke his foot during the incident. Then to add insult to injury, he rolled his personal vehicle on the way to the hospital. VORRA considered that more than fair to give him the extra boost.

Next season we have LOTS to look forward to! 2021 will have nine VORRA races! Yes, you read that right... 4 desert races and 5 short course races throughout Northern Nevada and California! Buckle up and come join in the fun!

To see all the race results, and the 2021 season schedule, check out [vorraracing.com](http://vorraracing.com).



**DONATE**

Or join CORVA today!

# Off Road Clubs: The Backbone of Our Sport

JARED MACLEOD

As off-roaders, many of us consider ourselves the lone wolf. But isn't there a little bit of lone wolf in each of us? After all, we are all off-roaders, and getting away from cities and people is a big part of why we love what we do. We love getting away from all of the madness to enjoy camping and off-road recreation, while spending quality time outdoors with our family and friends. This is our community.

A big part of being a member of this community requires leaving our inner lone wolf aside, to collectively join forces with other fellow off-roaders. We do this because we care more than just about using and abusing the trails. We respect our trails; we want to protect our riding areas and we want to preserve our type of recreation and this way of life for future generations to come. We now no longer function as the lone wolf off-roader, we now function as a "CLUB". This is the game changer, and this is where the real magic is made.

I believe that off-road clubs are the backbone of our sport. As clubs, we bring many things to the table that the individual off-roader cannot, as we come together in numbers. As off-road clubs, we have the unique ability and responsibility to advocate and educate our members and other off-roaders on

responsible recreation, land advocacy and being of service as good stewards of our public lands. We give back through volunteer work, trail work, charity and taking an active role to serve our communities.

As clubs, we also play an integral part of the US Forest Service's Adopt-A-Trail program throughout California. It has been said that 75% of the US Forest Service's annual volunteer work in California is performed through the efforts of off-road clubs. I would say that is quite an achievement! Without these clubs volunteering, who would be there to pick up the slack? The answer is, no one. Without off-road volunteers, many of those trails would be unable to open each year for us to enjoy. This would ultimately lead to even more trail closures and locked gates. This goes to show the importance of service work and conservation efforts by off-roaders. Volunteer work is important, and off-roaders really makes the difference!

Without the support of the many California clubs, off-road organizations could not effectively do their jobs to fight for land use, advocacy and long-term sustainability of OHV recreation in California. We do not just join as individuals; we bring our entire club membership to the organizations.







This speaks volumes because collectively our clubs bring leaders, volunteers and voices from our membership to the frontlines of the fight for off road advocacy and OHV land use. This is an important and necessary partnership. We need organizations to keep fighting the good fight on our behalf, therefore we as clubs must give them the support they need.

I remember when I was a lone wolf off-roader, but that all changed when I joined my first club, Point Mugu 4x4 Club. For the past 2 years I have had the honor to serve as the President of Point Mugu 4x4 Club, and now I am a member of the Bakersfield Trailblazers club. Our clubs are just 2 of the many active volunteer service clubs in the state, but we are also part of the short list of actively engaged land use off-road clubs.

Point Mugu 4x4 Club works to support the larger off-road organizations, and also works side by side in these land use battles, especially the fight to “Save Oceano Dunes SVRA”. Our club members attend and speak at many monthly government agency meetings, write letters to representatives, submit comments for OHV projects and are actively fighting to make a difference. We do not just support one organization, we support many. We are proud to be the 2018 CORVA Southern Club of The Year, a Cal4Wheel Club and a huge supporter of Friends of Oceano Dunes.

Point Mugu 4x4 Club has been very successful with having an elected club member to serve as our ‘Club Representative’ with each of the OHV organizations, as well a ‘Forest Service Coordinator’ for our Adopt-A-Trail work. While many of our members are in regular attendance at the different organization’s meetings, by having a designated representative for each one has helped keep our dialog and communication strong, and given us a stronger voice at the table. It has also allowed our club members to become more involved and engaged in the process. Keeping our trails, riding areas and SVRAs open should be the most important front and center issue for all clubs!

Finding yourself an active club and your very own off-road family, and it could very well be the most important thing you do as an off-roader. It was for me, and I’m sure that many of my club members would also agree. It is a game changer! I would encourage every off-roader out there to find your way to be of service, find your way to get involved and make a difference for our sport. Find yourself a great Club to get out there and enjoy our public lands!

Contact Jared at [jared.macleod@corva.org](mailto:jared.macleod@corva.org)







# SunFair Dry Lake Bed

**SunFair Dry Lake Bed is located in Joshua Tree California. Owned by the Bureau of Land Management and private owners SunFair consist of wide open desert with trails as far as the eye can see, dunes and a sugar bowl.**

For many decades Sunfair has been the place for locals to go off-roading and camping. In recent years a rise in homelessness, tourism and illegal dumping has contributed to our desert landscape becoming quite trashed. With the majority of land being owned by BLM, if it continues to get trashed we will lose our public lands for recreation.

On October 17th, 2020 San Bernardino Sherriff's Department partnered with Desert Cleanse Project

to help removed illegally dumped and left behind trash. In total, volunteers removed 22,000 pounds of trash in a total of 4 hours. It doesn't take much, it just takes a good group of people and some team work, and if public lands continue to get trashed more closures will continue to happen. Pack in Pack out somehow got forgotten and we need to remind people how important that concept is This world is stressful enough people need to be able to enjoy nature and decompress completely. Let's work together in keeping our lands open and clean not only for ourselves but for future generations as well.



# Unknown Soldier

## A Guy You Didn't Know Was Working For You ... and You Did Not Know It.

Wayne Nosala, Mojave, California, died November 09, 2020, not in a hospital bed ... and not out in the desert, which he surely would have preferred. At home, under hospice care. Under pain-alleviating compounds and Wayne, all of 56, was struck down by diabetes, compounded by systemic failures ... and deemed untreatable, according to long-time partner and associate, Ann Nosala.

Nosala did a lot for the Southern California off-road community ... acts often unknown, unheralded, and performed behind the scenes.

Wayne had dedicated a large portion of his life to supporting the rights of off-highway-ing in the Mojave Desert, acting as the legislative director of the "California Off-Road Vehicle Association", or "CORVA". Out of the Jawbone Station Visitors Center office (Cantil, CA). His efforts included lobbying the various government agencies ... fighting the ever-

restrictive rules and regulations geared to reduce the use of the Desert.

All the while operating, in his "spare time", an off-road car prep garage plus, and mainly, "Nosala Engineering", a CNC machine shop located in Mojave, CA, for aerospace projects, prototypes, and exotic materials.

Wayne was a MORE "Class 12" champ in '04. He was a busy boy, indeed.

There aren't any huge billboards and signs proclaiming Wayne's efforts for "CORVA", and you, but there should be recognition of Wayne's efforts. However, Wayne WAS presented the "Vic Van Ella Award", a special "Checkers" trophy that was created in memory of Van Ella, a Checkers member who died in a racing accident years ago. This award has been given to a deserving number of individuals, companies, and groups over the years.





# CORVA Land Use Report

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020

## Oceano Dunes Update

Due to the critical need to stop the COVID-19 surge and prevent overwhelming regional ICU capacity, California State Parks announced closure of most developed campgrounds on December 7th.

While the Regional Stay at Home Order is asking Californians to stay home as much as possible and for certain sectors to close, the state recognizes that outdoor activity is critical for mental health and physical health. Most SVRA's including Oceano Dunes SVRA remains open to day use between 7AM and 8PM.

In October State Parks announced a phased plan for reopening the Dunes, beginning on Oct 30, when the park was reopened to street legal vehicles only and no overnight camping. Phase 2 of the reopening plan will allow OHV use and limited camping, however no date for Phase 2 or Phase 3 reopening has been set.

As expected the Center for Biological Diversity sued the State of California for violation of the Endangered Species Act related to nesting terns and snowy plovers in an effort to keep the SVRA closed. California DPR has not commented on this pending litigation,

however the SVRA opened on Oct 30 as planned.

On the planning front, the next step will be the release of the Public Works Plan (PWP) draft Environmental Impact Report which is due out during the winter of 2020. Provisions of the PWP have been addressed during a number of public meetings and shouldn't come as a surprise to the many communities of interest.

Pismo State Beach and Oceano Dunes SVRA are managed in compliance with the General Development Plan, which provides direction and guidance for park purpose, broad land use planning uses, and program-based goals and guidelines. The 1975 General Development Plan was amended in 1982 and 1994 and predates the California Coastal Act of 1976.

The existing Coastal Development Permit (CDP) A-4-82-300-A5, issued in 1982 for the entry kiosks and perimeter fencing projects, currently serves for compliance with the California Coastal Act and has been amended five times to accommodate additional projects and actions.

The proposed PWP will supersede the 1982 CDP and provide compliance for existing and future park



management activities and select improvement projects with the California Coastal Act. The PWP will be consistent with the existing General Development Plan.

In a related development, the San Luis Obispo county APCD approved DPR's Annual Report and Work Plan (AWRP). This is a critical step that DPR must meet. Unfortunately approval of the AWRP was conditional on implementing dust control measures on an additional 90 acres of the SVRA, which includes closing the acreage to both camping and OHV use. Most of the additional closed areas are an expansion of existing vegetation islands, with two high emissivity areas outside the fenced SVRA. The proposal was reviewed and approved by the SAG, another critical step, who reluctantly approved inclusion of 26 acres outside the SVRA that would be counted as part of the 90 acres.

## USDA Announces First Set of Great American Outdoors Act Projects

**WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, 2020** – Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it has delivered to Congress its priority list of deferred maintenance projects for Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) funding in fiscal year 2021. The GAOA will protect and enhance the economies of numerous gateway communities that surround our public lands by restoring and maintaining critical access and infrastructure. The bill was a part of a strong push by President Trump to prioritize the conservation and stewardship of our public lands. Congress passed the bill in July and the President signed it into law in August.

“Each year our nation’s forest network connects approximately 300 million Americans to federally managed public lands. The Great American Outdoors Act gives us an historic opportunity to make significant improvements to our visitor facilities, roads, bridges, trailheads, campgrounds, and other recreational sites and to secure and improve access to public lands for generations to come,” said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. “USDA is hitting the ground running to implement the Great American Outdoors Act. We are working with states, local communities, and partners to enhance the quality of the visitor experience in a way that boosts local economies, creates employment opportunities, and reduces our maintenance backlog.”

The project list breakdown, now available on the agency’s website, will help the Forest Service reduce its \$5.2 billion deferred maintenance backlog and improve access and visitor experience by repairing and restoring roads, trails, bridges, recreation sites, and other facilities on national forests and grasslands. Working with state and local governments and other partners in a Shared Stewardship framework, these projects will benefit from millions in partner contributions that will further bolster the funding provided under GAOA.

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# Off-Road Activity Close to the San Diego Area

ED STOVIN

## Gypsum Railroad

There is a short, private railroad that goes from the Gypson Mine (just south of Ocotillo Wells) at the end of Split Mountain Road to Plaster City and the train can run seven days a week as many as three times a day. The manager of the train recently contacted us regarding a problem. Three times the train was recently stopped by people actually on the tracks. One time, the people stopped the train and wouldn't move. The conductor called headquarters to call the sheriff to deal with them. Lots of people camp along the tracks to off-road or shoot against the mountain and some people have been setting up their shooting stuff right on the tracks. The railroad manager asked for help getting the word out to stay off the tracks. I went along there the day after Thanksgiving to see for myself. In the past I have seen a lot of camps there. This time I only saw one camp. I suspect the sheriff came through and spoke to people. If you like to camp along the tracks there, please stay clear of the tracks.



## Oceano Dunes

Oceano Dunes has a lot of trouble going on now, five plus lawsuits, virus closure, air pollution trouble, Coastal Commission trouble and species trouble. Because there are species listed on both State and Federal levels, State Parks needs both State (Habitat Conservation Plan) and Federal (Environmental Assessment) documents to get an incidental take permit. This permit is required to allow activity where troubled species are. [The Habitat Conservation Plan](#) and [Environmental Assessment](#) for Oceano Dunes. I've read both documents and so far they seem objective.

Recently the Center for Biological Diversity filed a federal lawsuit against Oceano Dunes. From CBD website "The Center for Biological Diversity sued the California Department of Parks and Recreation today for continuing to allow motorized vehicle use that kills protected snowy plovers at Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area." Right now, Oceano Dunes is open for day use by street legal vehicles. Parks has announced a reopening plan to include OHV's and camping, but have not published a timeline.

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After the GAOA was signed into law in August, the Forest Service spent several weeks reviewing project proposals from national forests and grasslands nationwide. The agency analyzed project proposals based on seven criteria:

- Reduce deferred maintenance
- Promote management of America's forests
- Improve visitor experience
- Contribute to rural economic development
- Improve visitor access
- Ensure health and safety
- Leverage partner contributions and resources

After a careful analysis of all project proposals, the Forest Service worked with local communities and stakeholders to identify over 550 shovel-ready projects that, if fully funded, will give federal land managers resources to take aggressive steps in repairing and restoring facilities and infrastructure the American people depend on when visiting their national forests and grasslands.

Read more from Secretary Perdue on the Great American Outdoors Act in his op-ed "[Opening and Accessing America's Great Outdoors](#)," featured on the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation website.

## HR 7092

In a rare display of bipartisan statesmanship, Congress sent HR 7092 to the President who signed the bill into law. Although this bill provides substantial funding to address the backlog of maintenance in America's National Parks, something that nearly everyone supports, we find it ironic that Congress cannot agree to provide an

unemployment package to assist those out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, this bill was supported by a wide array of recreation and environmental interests, including the outdoor recreation industry.

Although the bill will definitely be a help to America's National Parks and there will probably be some benefit to recreation on USFS and BLM lands where 80-90% of OHV recreation takes place, we see few if any provisions in the bill that would assure funding for motorized recreation areas.

The bill will provide a very substantial amount of funding of historical proportions (\$900 million/year) for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The LWCF has at times been controversial among advocates of motorized recreation because it has the potential to tie up land through federal acquisitions without any assurances that the land might be used for motorized recreation and not added to the wilderness system, for example.

The bill establishes a specific fund, the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund for depositing 50% of all revenue from oil, gas, coal, and renewable energy development on federal land, not to exceed \$1.9 billion per year for 5 years, for a total of nearly \$20 billion. That is real money, even in today's world of multibillion-dollar legislation. Fortunately, there is a provision for oversight by the GAO who must report on the effectiveness of the program each year.

The allocation of funding is important to understand because 70% goes to the US Park Service where little if any land is open to OHV use.

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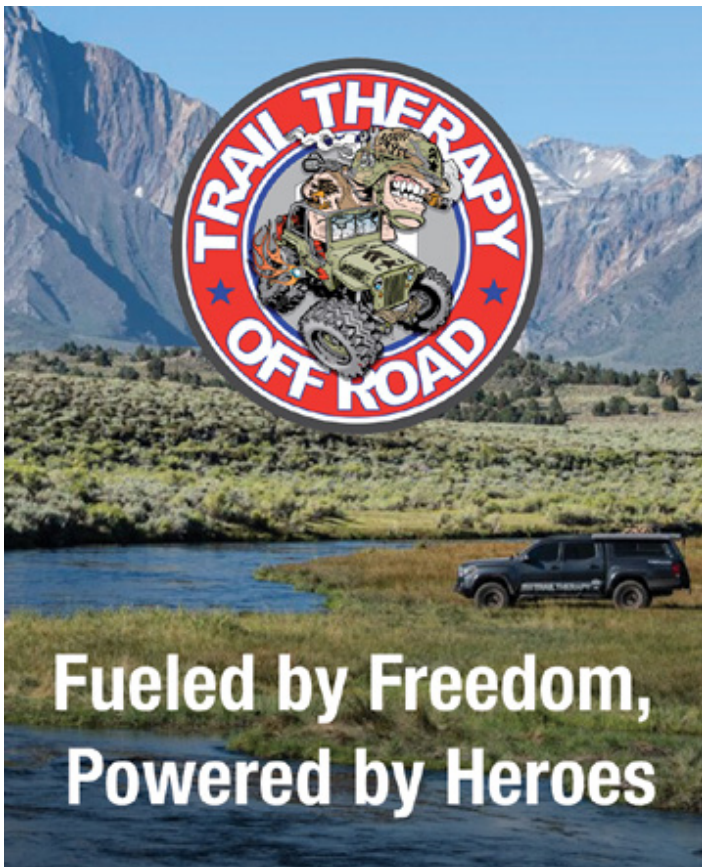
## Joel Anderson

We have a new east San Diego County Supervisor, and his name is Joel Anderson! Joel has been a friend to off-roading during his time in the State legislature. After terming out, he has chosen to run for County Supervisor. Somehow Joel pulled this one off. Right after the election, he was down by 1200 votes, but as they counted mail-in ballots, Joel pulled ahead and finally won by almost 300, out of 290,000 votes. We couldn't be happier about this and have started to work on getting an off-road park near town. Don't hold your breath, projects like this take years, but there is hope now that we don't have political opposition to our form of recreation. For years, SDORC leaders worked on getting an off-road park open near town. The efforts were always shot

down, usually by County Supervisor Jacobs. There were a few very viable projects that would have made many people happy, but were never able to make it happen. Now with political support at all the levels of government, there is a real chance to open something. While this will take time, we have a better chance now than we have had in decades.



“ My name is Steven. I specialize in residential home loans for real estate purchase and refinances. If you are looking for a licensed mortgage professional in California, I am located in Redlands, CA.



<< Land Use Report, continued from page 18

Below is a breakdown of the annual funding allocation from this bill.

- National Park Service – 70%
- Forest Service – 15%
- Bureau of Indian Education – 5%
- Bureau of Land Management – 5%
- Fish and Wildlife Service – 5%

*Note: The percentage of funds allocated to each agency will be based off the amount of revenue derived from oil and gas development each year and is not to exceed \$1.9 billion for any fiscal year.*

## Federal Legislation we may see again in 2021

### H.R. 316 (LaMalfa): Guides and Outfitters Act

*Summary:* This bill would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to allow the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue special recreation permits and fees for off-highway vehicle use on certain federal recreational lands, as defined. This bill is the successor to H.R. 289 of the 2017-2018 Session. Status: 2/07/2019 Referred to the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry

### H.R. 403 (Panetta): Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act

*Summary:* This bill would establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties to promote environmentally responsible off highway vehicle recreation and to support other recreational uses. This bill would direct the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to designate 21,000 acres of land adjacent to Clear Creek as wilderness and would name this area, “Joaquin Rocks Wilderness”. The bill would also reopen the 63,000-acre Clear Creek Management Area for public outdoor recreation, including off-road vehicles and hiking. This bill requires BLM to develop a plan including educating visitors about the hazards of asbestos. This bill is a reintroduction of H.R. 1913 from the 2017-2018 Session. Status: 2/05/2019 Referred to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

## Wilderness Legislation Update

### HR 2546 - Protecting America's Wilderness Act

We can expect the reintroduction of wilderness legislation that failed to pass the Senate in 2020.

In 2020 the House passed legislation aimed at providing additional protections for more than 1 million acres of public land on the West Coast on February 12, 2020.

The package combines six land protection bills that passed out of the House Natural Resources





Committee and would designate roughly 1.4 million acres in Colorado, California and Washington State as federally protected wilderness.

The bill would expand or designate new wilderness including California's North Coast, Central Coast, and Angeles – San Gabriel National Forest.

Logging, mining and drilling would be prohibited on the land and no new roads or infrastructure would be able to be built in the areas. Nearly 1,000 miles of river would also be added to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

The bill passed in a 231–183 vote, with six Republicans voting for it. The bill failed to pass the Senate in 2020.

Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.), who helped lead the efforts on the bill, noted it is one of the largest wilderness protection packages to be brought up in the House in more than a decade, arguing its passage would be beneficial for both the environment and the economies in the areas.

Critics of the measure raised concerns that the new protections could have unintended negative consequences, arguing it could limit public access to the land and increase the risk of wildfires in the areas.

Doug La Malfa (R-Calif) stated his opposition to the bill. “We have seen the devastation that wildfires cause in Northern California time and time and time again. So why are we putting more land into this restrictive wilderness category which will make it even more difficult to effectively manage forests and to access them?” he added.

## Planned BLM Move to Colorado may be changed by Biden administration

A coalition of climate experts hoping to guide President-elect Joe Biden's transition team has suggested big changes for the Bureau of Land Management, including reversing the Trump administration's relocation of its headquarters to Colorado.

The Climate 21 Project team, in a memo outlining specific changes needed at the Interior Department, said the Biden administration should "bring BLM national leadership back to Washington" on day one.

The memo said bringing the agency's headquarters back to the District of Columbia would "boost employee morale" after "four years of targeted political interference and efforts to cut budgets and demoralize and drive out career staff."

E&E News first reported Monday that the Biden transition team has made moving BLM's headquarters back to Washington a priority. The plan will include trying to rehire or transfer senior career staff that left BLM for other Interior positions in Washington as a result of the move back to the bureau.

The memo — written by former Obama Council on Environmental Quality Managing Director Christy Goldfuss and Alexandra Teitz, a former counselor to the BLM director — said that within "the first three weeks of the new administration" the agency should send the White House Office of Management and Budget "requests for funding" to move the BLM headquarters.

Interior, it said, "should request the funds necessary to immediately begin reversing damage to BLM by returning its headquarters and at least some staff to Washington."

The memo is part of a broader climate action plan unveiled yesterday that would involve agencies and departments across the federal government.

But it clearly states that a top objective of the Biden administration is to change business at BLM.

It sets a high priority on nominating and winning Senate approval of a new Interior secretary and, close behind, the nomination and confirmation of a new BLM director — for the first time in four years.

The Trump BLM never had a permanent director, instead sifting through a series of temporary leaders, including BLM Deputy Director of Policy and Programs William Perry Pendley.

## **Biden assembles his environmental team**

The Biden team is hunting for a nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) after some groups expressed opposition to a favorite to get the nod, California air regulator Mary Nichols.

According to a report from The New York Times, Nichols has fallen out of favor with the transition team following a letter from a coalition of 70 environmental and social justice groups that criticized her for not doing enough to mitigate pollution impacts for low-income communities and communities of color.

The letter, sent earlier this month, said Nichols had a “bleak track record in addressing environmental racism.”

Multiple media outlets have reported a growing list of the potential future EPA administrators, including Michael Regan, currently the head of North Carolina’s Department of Environmental Quality, and Richard Revesz, a professor and former dean at New York University School of Law.

Regan also previously worked at EPA under the

Clinton and George W. Bush administrations before heading to the Environmental Defense Fund as their southeast regional director.

Revesz is an expert in environmental and regulatory law — something that could be key for an administration determined to reverse Trump-era environmental rollbacks.

The transition team did not respond to request for comment nor did the California Air Resources Board, where Nichols’s term expires at the end of the year.

Nichols has often been called the Queen of Green and is considered one of the top environmental regulators in the country.

Calls for Joe Biden to pick a Native American to run the Department of the Interior are growing louder in the days before the president-elect is expected to announce his environmental team.

An increasing number of liberal members of Congress, climate activists, Hollywood celebrities and tribal groups are coalescing in support of Rep. Deb Haaland (D-N.M.), an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna, to become the first descendant of North America’s original people to be the next interior secretary. Another person being considered for the position, former deputy secretary Michael L. Connor, is also an enrolled member of New Mexico’s Taos Pueblo.

Picking a Native American to be the nation’s top public-lands manager would be history-making for a 171-year-old department that manages the U.S. government’s often tense relationship with tribes and oversees national parks and most other federal lands.

“Of course, it would be highly symbolic,” Haaland, a representative from New Mexico, said in an interview this month with our colleagues Juliet Eilperin and Darryl Fears. “A lot of native folks across the country would be proud.”

Biden said Tom Vilsack will steer U.S. agriculture toward net-zero emissions.



Biden introduced the former Iowa governor as his nominee to run the Agriculture Department during an event in Wilmington, Del., on Friday. Biden said Vilsack would carry out an ambitious agenda that includes “American agriculture being the first in the world to achieve net-zero emissions,” in part by paying farmers for carbon capture.

### **Former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.**

Vilsack echoed that sentiment in his remarks, saying that the nation would have an “incredible opportunity” to lead the world in combating climate change and reap “the new, good-paying jobs and farm income that will come from that leadership.”

### **Rep. Deb Haaland (D-N.M.)**

“We’ve come a long way,” she added, “and I’m happy that a Native American being mentioned for a Cabinet-level position is actually a thing.”

Both Indigenous candidates are up against another strong contender for the job in retiring Sen. Tom

Udall (D-N.M.), who has worked with Biden for decades on Capitol Hill and whose father served as interior secretary in the 1960s.

A chorus of people are pushing Biden to become the first president with a Native American interior secretary.

Haaland and Rep. Sharice Davids (D-Kan.) already made history last year by becoming the first Indigenous women to serve in Congress.

Now dozens of tribal leaders have joined more than 50 House Democrats in urging Biden to break another barrier by elevating Haaland to a Cabinet position.

Continues on page 25 >>



# Southern District Report

**Well as everyone knows, the Covid-19 virus has put a damper on pretty much everything.**

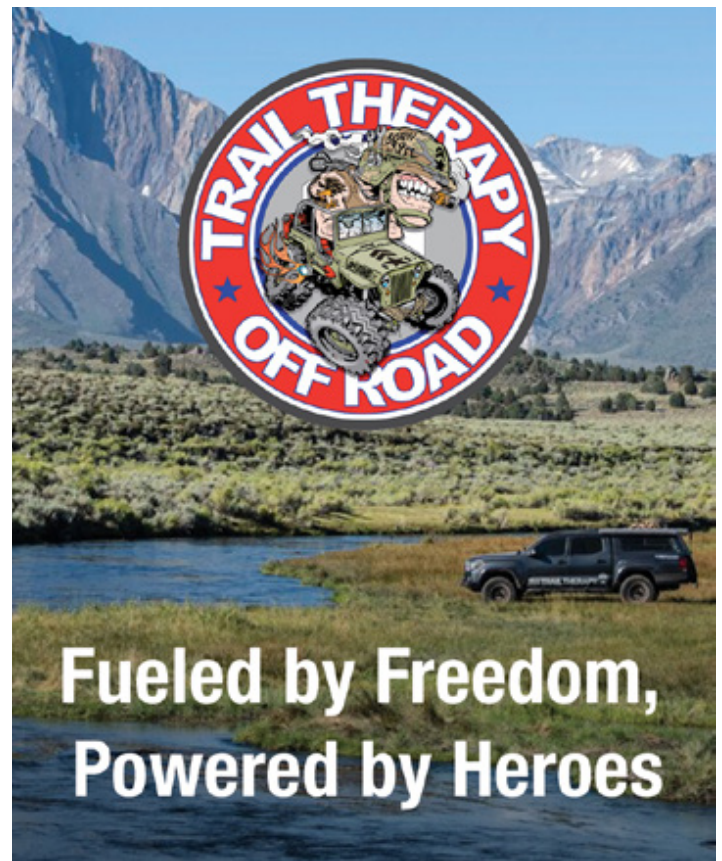
Normally I would be talking about how all the shows went. I'm talking about the Sand Sport Super Show, the Off Road Expo, the 4Wheel Parts Truckfest and the Jeep Bash that's held down at the beach. All those shows were canceled. I'd also be pounding the table about the Annual Corva Truckhaven Challenge that is usually held the 2nd or 3rd weekend of January. Due to Covid (Uhh Governor Newsome) the State Park people at Ocotillo Wells won't issue event permits. Thanks Newsome.

All I can say is we can't wait till the vaccines that are due out this week. Thanks to the current administration for helping speed up the process that usually takes years to accomplish. Hopefully by the time the next ORIA is out I'll have some good

news. Well I do have a little good news. Corva is already registered for the 2021 Sand Show in Costa Mesa. Stay tuned for (hopefully) at the next Corva appearance at the King Of The Hammers race in 2021. We are working on details to share a booth with Off The Grid Surplus a big Corva Business Sponsor and Supporter. Be sure to check out the website and follow on social media for details. We are also working on an event in March somewhere. We will send out an email blast when details are finalized.

Don't forget to support all the Corva sponsors listed in this issue. They are surely hurting like the rest of us.

P.S. BLM (Bureau of Land Management) land is open for dispersed camping and riding. I haven't stopped recreating and hope you haven't either.





## OHV Division Update

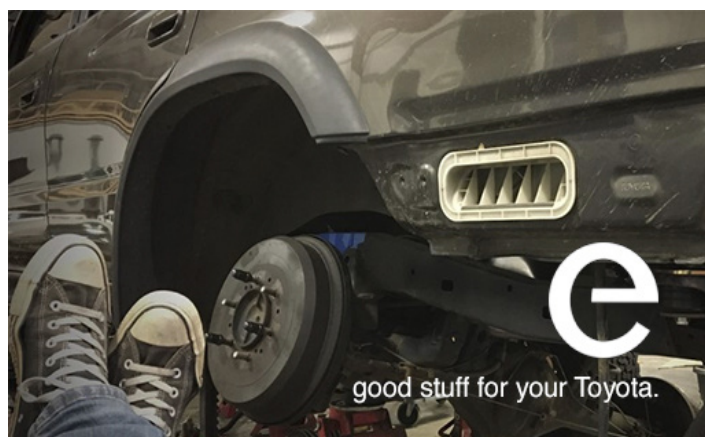
Welcome news for the OHV Division is the appointment of Sarah Miggins as Deputy Director by Governor Newsom. Sarah has recently served as Chair of the OHV Commission and comes from a background as Executive Vice President of the American Conservation Experience (ACE) which provides crews for many types of trail maintenance and restoration projects, including OHV projects. She also served as Executive Director of the Southern California Mountains Foundation which is active in the San Bernardino National Forest. She has shown considerable aptitude as Chair of the Commission, taking on complex issues such as the Oceano Dunes and the Carnegie Expansion. We look forward to her leadership as Deputy Director of the OHMVR.

## Recent Commission Appointments

### Roger Salazar

Appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2020, Commissioner Roger Salazar brings a lifelong family history of off-roading to the OHMVR Commission. As a boy, he would accompany his father and uncles on trips through the Rubicon Trail and learned to drive on his Dad's 1978 Jeep CJ5. The earliest known photograph of his father is as an infant in front of the Salazar family 1946 Willys Jeep. There has been a Jeep in the Salazar family continuously for nearly 75 years.

Tina Brazil, 59, of Turlock, has been appointed to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission by Governor Newsom. Brazil has been a public safety dispatcher at the California Highway Patrol since 1997.



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## Diane Ross-Leech

Appointed by Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon in August, 2020, Commissioner Ross-Leech is a native Californian with a passion for environmental stewardship. From an early age, Commissioner Ross-Leech has been an avid outdoorswoman – hiking, camping, canoeing, backpacking, skiing, snow shoeing, and bird watching throughout California and the West.

In 2018 Commissioner Ross-Leech retired as Director of Environmental Policy at Pacific Gas and Electric

Company. She has expertise in developing innovative strategies encompassing corporate sustainability, climate change adaptation, endangered species, migratory birds, land resource management and renewable energy. Throughout her career Commissioner Ross-Leech has built strong working relationships with federal and state resource agencies in California and Washington DC, and established a wide network of influential environmental non-profit and energy industry stakeholders.

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# What is CORVA?

**The California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) is a varied group of outdoor recreationalists who are extremely active in promoting the positive aspects of vehicular access on public lands and protecting that right.**

The group is composed of the owners of “Green Sticker” vehicles such as ATV’s, motorcycles, 3-wheelers, trail bikes, and dune buggies, as well as “street legal” 4x4 vehicles, dual sport motorcycles, baja and desert racers, and snowmobiles.

We work with land managers for responsible off-highway vehicular access and recreation opportunities. Secondly, we educate our membership on the constantly changing rules and regulations and promote conservation, clean-up and trail maintenance projects.

We participate in lobbying activities in both Sacramento and Washington DC. We work closely with the State Department of Parks and Recreation

providing input to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) program from the users’ standpoint.

We provide a valuable resource to land managers in the form of dedicated OHV and OSV enthusiasts who believe in using our public lands responsibly.

We are active at all levels of the land management public process with both the BLM and USFS as well as at the county and local levels. We do this by commenting on many environmental documents on issues that affect us.

We coordinate with other multiple use organizations such as snowmobiles to horse enthusiasts to protect multiple use rights that we both share. Only together can we fight the extremists. We are dedicated to protecting our lands for the people, not from the people. For more information, contact Amy Granat, Managing Director:

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# Off-Roaders In Action

Winter 2020/2021

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