

ACCESS ARMY TIMES



Keep our Public Lands OPEN!

March 2012
Volume 4, Issue 3

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Oddball Ways to Close More Public Lands

Excerpt from Del's article.

For the full article:

<http://www.delalbright.com/Articles/soundscapes.html>

We are sick of the continuous attempts to close public lands for every reason imaginable, from hairballs to headaches. Enough is enough. Let's stop this madness and put some common sense back into public lands management – keeping public lands FOR the public; not FROM the public. Check out this new list of junk being used to restrict or shut us out more. Soundscapes, viewsheds, scenic corridors and vistas, and perhaps next a “smellzone” are the new additions to closing public lands to motorized recreation. Where does it end? Natural sound; peace and quiet; insults to olfactory glands; energy development sounds and sights; OHV use; hunters; you name it – they all make noise (sound). Will the anti-access wackos never run out of ways to curtail motorized recreation and energy

development?

We think the radical closurists will never run out of tricks to shut us out. We have to take these things seriously even though it seems silly to us in many cases. Recently we spotted an article in one of our local small town USA newspapers about a certain “smell” problem in a particular area of the city and how it was finally found and resolved. A neighborhood could detect frequent sewer smells coming from “somewhere.” It caused major issues to the local community (let alone the homeowners). There were threats and disputes.

This article made us realize that the buck might not just stop there and it could spill over into our off-road recreation sports of choice. We cannot think that junk science or radical closurists won't find ways to mess with our fun. Here are our suggestions for what WE can do about it.

TUNE YOUR JUNK: Maintenance and sound levels (as in mufflers) are

critical to keeping our off-road trails and riding areas open. Get your stuff up to snuff. Give a hoot; don't pollute. Don't leak or drip. Be the example for others to follow and for no one to criticize.

FOLLOW THE RULES: This goes without saying; know the game and follow the rules of the trail. This is our first method of holding the high ground in motorized recreation. Follow the rules, have some trail ethics like those upheld by BlueRibbon Coalition here: <http://www.sharetrails.org/about/ethics>.

JOIN THE WINNERS: Join groups like BlueRibbon Coalition making a difference on a national level. Join your state and regional clubs/groups as well. It's all about numbers and members – our voices have to be heard and we need a bigger choir.

Sage Grouse Comments due by March 23rd

BRC ACTION ALERT IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUESTED

Important issue affecting tens of millions of acres of public lands. Comments due by close of business - march 23, 2012

Dear BRC members and supporters, Last January, BRC updated you on a huge issue that will affect the management of tens of millions of acres of public lands managed by the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management - The Endangered Sage Grouse. BRC has a [dedicated webpage](#) on the issue.

The BLM and USFS are conducting a planning process to evaluate greater sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans in 10 Western states.

The agencies will propose amendments that will affect everything from travel management to energy production to livestock grazing. This BLM/USFS Sage Grouse Initiative is taking place on a battlefield in a larger war over public use of federal lands. Naturally, the radical environmentalists are hoping the issue will drastically reduce or eliminate public use and access. Your comments are needed to help prevent responsible OHV recreation from becoming collateral damage in this fight.

Below are some comment suggestions, and instructions on how to make them. Thank you in advance for your help.

Don Amador

BRC Western Representative

PS: For further information, or to have

your name added to the mailing list, contact: Johanna Munson, Rocky Mountain Region Project Manager, (307) 775-6329; mailing address 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, WY 82009; email jmunson@blm.gov; or Lauren Mermejo, Great Basin Region Project Manager; (775) 861-861-6400; mailing address 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV 89520; email lmermejo@blm.gov.

Help to write comments here:

<http://www.sharetrails.org/alerts/2012/03/08/brc-action-alert-sage-grouse-comments-due-by-march-23>

Special points of interest:



ACCESS ARMY TIMES

Cal4Wheel Membership needed



Special Edition "Access Army" Trail Doors!

Features:

Lightweight Aluminum Construction
Include Bestop handles
Padded arm rests & cupholders
Ships Bare Aluminum or Powdercoated
Manufactured in the USA
One benefit of owning a Jeep Wrangler YJ/TJ or LJ Unlimited is the ability to take the doors off to better enjoy the weather when your on the trail or just cruising the town. Even when doorless it can be nice to have something to separate yourself from the outside of the vehicle. T&T Customs Trail Doors are the solution when taking your doors off. Constructed of light weight aluminum, they include padded armrests, cupholders, hinges and Bestop handle assemblies for their clean look and dependability. Doors are manufactured in the USA and make a great addition to your rig.

10% of every set sold goes to the Blue Ribbon Coalition to aid in their fight to keep our trails open!



Cal4wheel was formed in 1959 by some four-wheelers who were getting tired of their trails being closed. They also wanted to host good quality events for their fellow four-wheelers, and to provide education in safe four-wheeling practices and trail conservation.

Fast forward 50+ years and the battles are the same. The desire to play on public lands is as strong as ever, and more people than ever

before have some form of off-road vehicle. Our opponents have also been busy those 50+ years and are just as strong now as they were in 1959.

The bottom line: We need your help. We need your dollars to fight the legal battles. We need your time to help with events, committees and access issues. Dues are

still only \$45, which amounts to less than \$4 per month for the benefits that we provide.

So sign up, or renew now to help us continue that battle that started so long ago.

Here is the link: [membership](#)

U.S. House Subcommittee to Hold Field Hearing in Nevada on Access to Public Lands

U.S. House Subcommittee to Hold Field Hearing in Nevada on Access to Public Lands, and How Public Lands Management Threatens Rural Economy and Jobs

Dear BRC Action Alert Subscriber, The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands will hold an Oversight Field Hearing in Elko, Nevada, on "Explosion of Federal Regulations Threatening Jobs and Economic Survival in the West." The hearing will be held on Monday, March 12, 2012, at the Elko Convention Center, 700 Moren Way, Elko, Nevada.

Nevada's Elko County, in solidarity with hundreds of local governments across the public lands West, requested the field hearing in order to examine this issue and fully understand the detrimental impacts on local communities, recreational access and, perhaps most importantly, jobs. Nevada Representative Mark Amodei (NV-02) said: "There wouldn't be a need to hold the hearing if local elected officials in Nevada felt like they were true partners in this process. I look forward to discussing with the federal official from Ogden his views on working with community stakeholders in the Silver State. And I thank Chairman Bishop for taking the time out of his very busy schedule to convene this important field hearing in my district," BlueRibbon Coalition Executive Director, Greg Mumm said "We are extremely pleased to see Congress once again focus on the importance of multiple-use/sustained yield management on public lands."

Utah Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01), Chairman of the Subcommittee said; "The

National Forest System was created to ensure that future generations would have working forests that would serve multiple objectives. Unfortunately, over time, the role of the U.S. Forest Service has shifted away from upholding this original intent. In recent years we have seen efforts to limit accessibility and multiple-use in forests and on other federal lands, as evidenced by an onslaught of rules, regulations and administrative overreach."

Mumm also noted that in many areas the amount of road and trail closures has reached a critical mass. Mumm wrote; "Over the last two decades, thousands of miles of roads and trails have been closed and tens of thousands of acres made off limits to snowmobile recreation." He added "The level of closures are now impacting more than the 'enthusiast' Off-Highway Vehicle community. We are locking America's families out of America's public lands."

WHAT: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands oversight hearing on:

• "Explosion of Federal Regulations Threatening Jobs and Economic Survival in the West."

Witnesses to be announced.

WHEN: Monday, March 12, 2012

1:00 P.M. PT

WHERE: Elko Convention Center, 700 Moren Way
Elko, Nevada 89801

We will let you know when the Subcommittee announces the witness list. And we should have some tips and pointers on how to make your views known to members of the Subcommittee on this important issue. Stay tuned!
Brian Hawthorne
Public Lands Policy Director
BlueRibbon Coalition
208-237-1008 ext 102
Ric Foster
Public Lands Department Manager
BlueRibbon Coalition
208-237-1008 ext 107

MORE INFO ON THE WEB:
Visit the Committee Calendar LINK for testimony and additional information, once it is made available. The hearing is open to the public and a live video stream will be broadcast at <http://naturalresources.house.gov/live>.
Elko County Announcement
http://www.sharetrails.org/uploads/Elko_County_Subcommittee_PSA.pdf

ACCESS ARMY TIMES

Silent Auction to Benefit BlueRibbon Coalition

Silent Auction to Benefit BlueRibbon Coalition

March 23-25, 2012 at Reno Sparks

Convention Center

Reno Off-Road & Motorsports Expo ~

Reno Outdoor Recreation Expo

Spring Home & Garden Show ~ Reno Pet

Show and Pug Parade

RENO, NV MARCH 6, 2012: One of the

featured activities at this years Reno Expo

at the Reno Sparks Convention Center is a

Silent Auction to benefit the BlueRibbon

Coalition. The show will run for three days

March 23, 24 and 25, 2012 with the ability

to bid on auction items every day. Bidding

will close on Sunday March 25th at 1pm



and winners will be announced at 2pm. "We are excited to add this new feature to our shows this year," said event producer Al Lockett. "We always look for a way to support the local and national community and by supporting the BlueRibbon Coalition we feel it truly supports both."

The BlueRibbon Coalition is a respected national recreation group that champions responsible use of public and private lands, and encourages individual environmental stewardship. The BlueRibbon Coalition advocates for the responsible use of public lands and waters for the benefit of all recreationists by educating the general public, media, elected officials, and other decision makers on recreation and access issues. All of the funds raised from the Silent Auction will be used to support The BlueRibbon Coalition's work in our national community.

If you would like to support the Silent

Auction and the BlueRibbon Coalition, please consider donating products or services. Your donation could represent hundreds of dollars in auction funds raised and is a tax-deductible donation for your business. Additionally, you'll benefit from exposure of your company's name to those who attend the event. Donors will be acknowledged on the Reno Expos website and alongside their merchandise displayed at the thoroughfare where the Silent Auction will be hosted. To donate, please go to this link for additional information:

<http://lockettshows.com/silent-auction.htm>

The Reno Expo will be the largest multi-discipline consumer show event in Northern Nevada. Visit www.lockettshows.com for show information and featured entertainment.

For Exhibitor and Ticket Information on all shows go to www.lockettshows.com

Sierra Club lawsuit over Oceano Dunes is thrown out

Reprinted from the [San Luis Obispo Tribune](#), January 11, 2012

A California appeals court has rejected a request by the Sierra Club to ban dune buggy riding on a county-owned parcel in Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. Citing late Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, who said "wise adjudication has its own time for ripening," a state Court of Appeals on Monday upheld a San Luis Obispo Superior Court decision that it is too late to review a coastal development permit issued in 1982 that allows off-highway vehicles on a 584-acre, county-owned parcel, called the La Grande Tract, within the park.

"It's a setback, but we are just going to keep at it," said environmental attorney Babak Naficy, who represented the Sierra Club. "We will be advocating before the (California) Coastal Commission and the county."

The Sierra Club had sued State Parks, arguing that the La Grande Tract is classified as a buffer area by San Luis Obispo County's local coastal plan and is, therefore, a non-vehicle area. Both courts ruled that State Parks is under no obligation to amend its general development plan to reflect the designation.

"Despite two pleading attempts, Sierra Club has failed to allege that State Parks has a clear and present ministerial duty to ban (off-roading) activities in the La Grande Tract," wrote the three-judge panel in its ruling.

The Sierra Club was ordered to pay the costs of the appeal and is barred from further litigation over the 1982 permit. The lawsuit was the latest move in the club's efforts to curtail off-road riding in the park.

State Parks leases the La Grande Tract from the county and operates it as part of the riding area. State Parks offered to buy the La Grande Tract

in 2007, but the county Board of Supervisors balked.


The Sierra Club argued that a court order was the only way to swiftly remedy the situation. But the court noted that the Coastal Commission and county have closely monitored activities in the park for more than 20 years.

"The presumption is that the Coastal Commission, the county and State Parks have weighed the competing interests and are acting in the best interest of everyone, including the Sierra Club," the judges' ruling concluded.

Read more here:

http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2012/01/10/1902441/oceano-dunes-sierra-club-lawsuit.html#storylink=omni_popular#storylink=cpy



BLUERIBBON COALITION APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP						
www.sharetrails.org						
1-800-BLUEBIB						
Name					<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$29
Mailing Address					<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Lifetime Membership	\$500
City		State		Zip	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Membership	\$100
Phone:					<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership	\$100
Email Address:						
Contributions		<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Other\$	
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000		
*the BlueRibbon Coalition is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization; all contributions beyond membership are tax deductible						
Payment Method		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Discoverer <input type="checkbox"/> American Express				
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed (payable to BlueRibbon Coalition)						
Card Number					Expiration Date	
Organization/Business Name					Contact Person	

Form provided by Access Army Times

FOTR Annual Meeting

FOTR Annual meeting reminder and assorted items:

Just a reminder that the FOTR Annual meeting is April 14th at the Cal4wdrive building.

Plan is to start at 9am and go through lunch and end around 1pm. There are a lot of items to discuss and we need your input. There will be an agenda out in a couple of weeks.

Start thinking about any projects! I would like to get the projects decided and scheduled at this meeting. Then I can submit them for approval.

*Here is one idea:

³Welcome to the Rubicon Trail? signs were discussed. The general thought was that this could be a volunteer project. We need feedback from FOTR and members can submit an idea for design. Once approved we can make and install the signs at Loon lake, Wentworth, and the Tahoe side. So here is

our chance to design and get them up.

Tahoe Side: The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit would like to work on the Tahoe staging area before the Memorial Weekend. Signage, moving boulders, and harden the edges and general cleanup. Will need volunteers and leads to take on these projects.

Here are some items that were discussed at the March ROC meeting:

*Discussion on DOT projects. Options still open on when to start. The weather (or lack of) might get the work started a little earlier this year.

*The county will be having a booth at the County Fair this year along with OHMVR for Rubicon Education. There will be some ³large² rocks brought in with the idea being to put vehicles on the rocks to bring the people over to the display. So we need some people to step in and volunteer to hang out, answer questions, and pass out info. The

county appreciates our volunteer efforts and would like us at the fair booth to answer questions and show how we work together on trail issues.

*Gerle Creek Bridge is scheduled to be up this year. Ellis is on the calendar for 2013.

*EDSO will have an Officer on the trail this year 3 to 4 days a week, a full time position.

*OHV will also have a presence on the trail. OHV will also be purchasing a Polaris RZR for the trail.

Thanks,
Jerry Reffner, Trail Boss

Arrest of North Coast Scientists Rivals Lynx Hoax

The Recreation HQ believes the recent arrest of Ron LeValley and other associates of Mad River Biologists for embezzlement of over \$900,000 dollars will call into question all of the closure-oriented land-use projects this group has been involved with since 1982. Times Standard Article on Arrest of Northcoast Biologists

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_20035369?source=rss

North Coast Biologists Stunned by Arrest

http://www.times-standard.com/ci_20048801?IADID=Search-www.times-standard.com-www.times-standard.com

North Coast/IndyBay Article on LeValley as MLPA Science Team Member

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/02/26/18708222.php>

Affidavit for LeValley and Others

<http://extras.times-standard.com/multimedia/pdfs/YurokSWsandR>

ameysPC.pdf

According to Dennis Mayo, founder of Open Beaches and Trails, "Mad River Biologists have been at the center of most recreation-based public land closures in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties for the last 10-15 years. At Clam Beach, I tried to warn county and state park officials that this biology firm was using politically motivated 'science' that actually was harming the Snowy Plover by insisting on vehicle and equestrian bans instead of focusing on predator controls."

In another article, it appears that LeValley was involved in a 2009 cover-up regarding the killing of a Blue Whale off the Northcoast of California.

Article on LeValley's Blue Whale Cover-up
<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/02/26/18708215.php>

HQ believes this story is much larger than the "Lynx Hoax" that hit a few years ago.

BRC Article on Lynx Hoax

<http://www.sharetrails.org/magazine/article/lynx-hoax-could-expose-faulty-research>

HQ believes the arrest of LeValley and others will call into question the scientific credibility of all

research projects and other efforts that LeValley and Mad River Biologists have been involved with since 1982. Those projects and agencies include the Northern Spotted Owl, BLM, FS, California State Parks, California Resources Agency, Pacific Flyway, Plover-related beach closures to vehicles and other public uses, and implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act on the Northcoast.

Many of you will remember back in 2010 when HQ warned readers that the proposed state park vehicle tax would actually be used to fund politically motivated land and sea closure programs such as the MLPA and its parent organization.

HQ Overview of MPLA Funding via the State Park Vehicle Tax (LeValley is on MLPA science team)
<http://thegeneralsrecreationden.blogspot.com/2010/06/ocean-wilderness-stonyford-nca-and.html>

This issue also exposes the soft and corrupt (and lucrative) underbelly of the unholy alliance that exists between some environmental groups, scientists, academia, and government agencies. Be assured that HQ will be following this story.

<http://thegeneralsrecreationden.blogspot.com/2012/02/arrest-of-northcoast-scientists-rivals.html>

Access Army Links

www.pirate4x4.com/landuse

www.savemytrails.com

www.delalbright.com

www.rltc.biz

www.nohvcc.org

www.ufwda.org

www.ama-cycle.org

www.atvaonline.com

www.sharetrails.org

www.sharetrails.org/backcountry

www.treadlightly.org

www.ih8mud.com

www.off-road.com

www.sema.org

www.fmdac.org

www.tlca.org

www.americansandassociation.org

www.arra-access.com

www.goldprospectors.org

www.orba.biz

www.poisonspyder.com

www.btlrovers.com

www.muirnet.net

www.cal4wheel.com

www.justgoodtrails.com

www.camel4x4.com

www.quietwarriorracing.com

www.racelinewheels.com

www.4x4wire.com

www.tntcustoms.com

www.accessarmy.com



STAY ALERT: Watch for unusual or new developments in and around your recreation areas, like energy pipelines, and learn what you can do to be part of the solution. Sign up for BlueRibbon Coalition News and Alerts so you know BEFORE it's too late. Listen to those full time landuse pro's in your organizations that know what we should be doing when it comes to energy vs. recreation situations, for example.

WHEN IN DOUBT, WHIP IT OUT (your keyboard or cell phone): Do not be afraid to ask the landuse gurus on forums and websites about issues in your area. Don't sit back and think someone else will take care of things. Closures are everyone's business. Do your part; don't let them start.

ACCESS ARMY TIMES

Off Pavement Patriotism It's all about access to our heritage of freedom

By Del & Stacie Albright
We have finally learned the secret to why backcountry motorsports enthusiasts love what we do so much. We can now wrap our arms around the magic that keeps us all working on our machines and hitting the trails, dunes, deserts and mountains. It's merely about freedom. It's all about access to the heritage of freedom that has been fought for so hard in our country and overseas. It is a fundamental component of patriotism. As authors, we've struggled for some time trying to "label" the passion, devotion and commitment many of us have to our motorized conveyances. We know now, that was the wrong approach; it's not the machine; it's what it gives us. It's about the freedom. There is no doubt that the good old U.S. of A has some marvelous and spectacular scenery, coupled with a vast array of historical cool stuff to see. But it is the freedom we have to explore that gives us that opportunity to enjoy all these things. Our machines take us to places that give each of us a sense of our own heritage and freedom.

Recently we were cruising in our

Jeep, sharing some trails in a southwest desert with ATV's, dirt bikes, side by sides and dune buggies. We were all breathing the same dust; admiring the same blue skies; loving the volcanic tableland of the high desert; and just plain relishing the camaraderie that accompanies users of the great outdoors. It mattered not what someone was driving/riding; it was that we were all out to treasure our heritage and righteously enjoy the freedom we have fought for and earned. Patriotism by definition is best described as having a "devotion" to one's country; supporting the cause of independence. Well, there you have it. That's us. We are patriots. Yes, we do all these things responsibly. That goes without saying. But no matter how you cut it; it's still about getting out there and doing it – the way you like it! It's about access and it's about freedom. An important part of the outdoor passion for freedom is having the ability to share these things with our friends and family. Passing on the heritage and history of our country and responsible

outdoor recreation is a big part of what we do and why we do it. There is nothing like seeing a kid's eyes light up after a knarly hill climb; or seeing a child give a big thumbs up while safely strapped in the back of a bouncing rig. It is also the reason we fight so hard to help keep what is left of our public land and trails open so that we can all get out there and enjoy ourselves. We are all about access and we must never forget the freedom and liberty that has been fought for by so many and when we are out there sharing the trails; sharing the dust; the scenery; etc. Just remember it's all about independence. Just picture John Wayne riding off into the sunset. It's a passion; it's our American way of life; it's how we express our off-pavement patriotism. We are freedom fighters and by God, let no one stand in the way of our access to our heritage. Stay in the game with us and keep up the fight.
At your service, *Del & Stacie Albright*

UFWDA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 - Direct Member		<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 - Individual Member—as an individual member you will receive all of the great benefits plus a free hat or tote	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500—Life Member—as a life member you will receive a UFWDA Life Member patch, UFWDA Life Member Jacket and Decal		<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000— Ambassador Member—as an Ambassador Member you will receive all of the benefits that you receive as a Life Member plus special recognition at the UFWDA Annual Meeting and a copy of the Annual Report and meeting minutes.	
Name		Address	
City	State	Zip	
Email Address:			
Phone:			
Credit Card Information		<input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Discoverer <input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Card Number			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Expiration Date			

Form provided by Access Army Times

ACCESS ARMY TIMES

The Political War of Off-Highway Vehicle Enthusiasts

by Ron Arnold

"You might not have noticed it but there's been a shift recently in ads for off-highway vehicles: The stereotypical trail bike warriors of old are morphing into family-friendly images that better fit contemporary reality.

That suits Don Amador just fine, because his job as "The General" of thousands of embattled motorized recreation enthusiasts pits him against master manipulators of public opinion: Big Green's ferocious and lavishly funded anti-OHV faction -- those selfish, relentless, and effective elitists out to reduce public access to federal lands substantially, if not altogether. Amador represents the Blue Ribbon Coalition, a non-profit advocacy group incorporated in Idaho in 1987 to work nationwide to keep scenic forest roads and public trails open to motorcyclists, snowmobilers, trail bikers, dune buggy fans and other OHVs.

From BRC's beginning, Amador has lobbied Congress and state legislatures, helping launch the 1987 drive that won the landmark National Recreational Trails Fund Act of 1991.

That law provided federal highway funds for new trails, maintenance and repair of existing trails, plus trail-head and trail-side facilities that enhance access, including motorized access. Enhancing trail access had always been anathema to greedy wilderness purists who want only their own footprints in wild areas -- the Wilderness Society spent 15 years lobbying the Wilderness Act of 1964 into law.

Their legislation mandated that congressionally designated wilderness have no roads, no structures and no motorized access. That's why you can't drive your kids or their granny through a federal wilderness some nice weekend afternoon.

The 1991 trails act did not allow roads to be built in wilderness, but it legitimated motorized use of certain existing Bureau of Land Management and National Forest trails, which stymied the Greens' campaign to close motorized access to all potential wilderness areas.

Amador earned his honorary rank as "The General" by working for it: He organized BRC's "trail cleanup weekend army" to bring out all the trash left by careless hikers and other users. He began to work with BLM and Forest Service rangers to find other ways that the OHV community could be better neighbors, and found that noise was a major complaint.

After gaining experience in noise control technology for recreation vehicles, he established Quiet Warrior Racing, his private consultancy that now provides noise level readings for BLM and the Forest Service.

But fundraising has always been a tough job, one that Amador constantly faces. In Congress and the courts, he finds himself outgunned when facing off against Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund (\$38.7 million 2010 assets), The Wilderness Society (\$53.1 million 2010 assets), Trout Unlimited (\$26.6 million 2010 income), and the Foundation for National Progress/Mother Jones magazine (\$9.6 million 2010 income) among dozens of other left-green outfits.

By 2005, BRC had gained a stable annual income approaching \$1 million: In 2010, it was \$954,141, according to the group's IRS Form 990.

"But we needed more political clout," said Amador. "I had talked with an environmental policy wonk back in 2002 -- Dave Widell, the deputy director for the California OHV Program at the time. He told me that if off-roaders wanted to 'get into the game' we had to form a national nonpartisan/bipartisan political action committee that focuses solely on motorized trail access."

After talking the idea around, Amador founded the Trail Political Action Committee late last year.

"We need to be sure that off-road voters are engaged in the electoral process," he said. "The reason is simple: All trail decisions are political decisions."

What's most political about trail decisions is that they're not just for OHV enthusiasts. They're about keeping federal lands open for business. Think timber, mining, farming, ranching, oil and gas.

Maybe it's time the folks who benefit from TPAC's work lend it a hand."

Examiner Columnist Ron Arnold is executive vice president of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/2012/0...usiasts/280476>

Upcoming events & Staff



Moab - Easter Jeep Safari
Ca - Molina
Ca - High Desert Roundup
Ca - FOTR annual meeting
Ca - Niagara Rim Poker Run
Jeep Beach
Ca - OHV Lobby Days

Mar 31 - Apr 8
May 11 - 13
May 25 - 28
Apr 14
Jul 14
Apr 25 - 29
Mar 14 - 15



NAME	SCREENNAME	MAIN ORGANIZATION	TAA TITLE	NOTES
Kurt Schneider	kurtuleas	OV Rocksports; Pirate4x4	Warrior	Pirate Board
Don Amador	cuttenkid	BlueRibbon Coalition; ThumperTalk	Warrior King	Western States
Todd Ockert	Navy-Jeepster	Access Army, FOTR, Cal4, BRC	Air Warrior	Access Army Times Editor
Brian Richardson	sincity	Sin City; JustGoodTrails.com	Pending	CO
Del Albright	jeepndel	BlueRibbon Coalition; Cal4	Grand Poobah	Founder
Dale Robins	fermentor	Rubicon Rockheads	Surgeon General	Dispenser of Elixirs
Jacquelyne Theisen	Bebe	Friends of the Rubicon	Grand Poobette	Hummer
Stacie Albright	LadyRed	Various; Social Networks	Warrior Queen	MWIC
Kevin Carey	Uget-it	Land Use Pirate4x4; FOTR	Warrior King	VLLS Graduate
John Stewart	kf6zpl	Muirnet.net; CA4WDC; TDS	Warrior King	www.4x4wire.com

