

From: New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance [mark@nmohva.ccsend.com] on behalf of New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance [prez@nmohva.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2009 9:10 PM
To: Werkmeister, Mark R
Subject: News from NMOHVA

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NMOHVA Member Newsletter

September

2009

This is YOUR Newsletter!

Hello everyone. I want to remind you that our members are VERY interested in the events and activities going on across our fine state. We want everyone to tell us about your competition events, fund-raisers, volunteer work, and other activities. What better way to advertise your event to the rest of the NMOHVA members than here in NMOHVA's monthly newsletter? Send us your event dates and a short description and we will help you get the word out. The dates will appear in both the monthly 'calendar' below and on the NMOHVA web site. The same goes for 'coverage' after your event. If you send a short article (it doesn't have to be perfect, we can polish it up if needed) and a photo or two, we will try to use them in an upcoming issue.

This is YOUR newsletter, help us make the most of it. And have a great September!

Mark - President

Upcoming Events for September

September 19 - New Mexico 4
Wheelers Club Meeting

September 26 - National Public
Lands Day

See the [NMOHVA
Calendar](#) for event
details and contacts.

Do you have an event to
share? Contact NMOHVA at
prez@nmohva.org for a listing
in the newsletter.

Carson National Forest Changes Direction on Travel Management Documents

What a difference one month can make! Last month, we told you that the Carson National Forest had released Proposed Actions for four of their Districts. We also noted that they were not going to release the full Environmental Assessments (EA's) for public comment. The Proposed Actions concluded hundreds of miles of roads should be closed, but they didn't reveal any of the numbers or science proving the roads were hurting anything. How can the public comment on the documents when the Forest Service doesn't tell us how they came to their conclusions about closing roads? NMOHVA wasn't satisfied with that approach and we went to work.

NMOHVA vigorously protested the lack of full disclosure for the Westside (Canjillon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras), Jicarilla, and Questa Ranger Districts. The Carson's documents lacked the science and analysis which is the cornerstone of every NEPA document and forms the basis for the project decision. At first, the Carson was insisting that the public would only be allowed to comment on those incomplete documents.

We made many phone calls and sent a formal letter to the Carson protesting their proposed process. On August 13th, barely a week later, NMOHVA received word that the Carson National Forest was changing course on those key Travel Management documents. They are now going to provide full Travel Management Environmental Assessments (EA's) for all of their Districts and allow a 30 day public comment period.

The Carson's response read, in part, "In response to many requests, we will be sending out Travel Management Environmental Assessments (EA) with a new 30 day Notice and Comment period. We anticipate that the EA's will be out for public review in September, 2009."

NMOHVA applauds this change in direction. "This will give the public access to the same information and analysis that the Forest Service uses to make the decision and will allow the public to make comments on the complete documents. We just wanted all the information available for public comment." said NMOHVA President Mark Werkmeister.

NMOHVA urges their members who ride and drive the Carson National Forest to make the most of this opportunity by providing comments on the EA's when they are released. We will post information and the deadlines for comments on the NMOHVA [web site](#) when we receive them.

NMOHVA Board Gathers for 'Face Time'

With the Board elections this past spring, NMOHVA has achieved greater geographical 'diversity' than at any point in its history. We believe that this is truly important as we want the organization to represent riders/drivers from across the entire state. Now that the Board is spread across the state, we are doing our monthly Board meetings via teleconference rather than a face-to-face meeting. These telecon meetings have worked well with most of the Board being able to attend very regularly.

The only apparent downside of the monthly teleconferences is that some Board members had never actually met their colleagues face to face. Our August Board meeting filled that gap. Board members gathered in Rio Rancho for a much anticipated face-to-face gathering. After an extended meeting, the Board enjoyed beer and burgers while getting to know each other better, laughing and talking about their own favorite personal forms of recreation. Everyone agreed that the meeting was time (and travel) well spent and that we will schedule more face-to-face meetings.



Your Board (left to right): Mark Werkmeister, BR Fjord, Hurley Wilvert, Jeff Boggs, and Terry Rust.



More Board: Mark Toney (lower), Bucky Allred, Terry, and Mark Winscott.

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