

# *Appendix E*

## *Off-Highway Vehicles and Wildlife Workshop*

### Off-highway Vehicles (OHV) and Wildlife Workshop State Parks' OHV Stakeholders Roundtable, March 24, 2005 Workshop Notes

OHV workshop comments may be summarized under six topics:

- Background
- Provide quality OHV opportunities
- Educate and communicate with OHV community
- OHV rider/driver certification
- Enforcement of the rules
- Major points

#### **Background**

- Rapid growth of OHV activity, economy, of all types.
- Double-digit sales growth nationwide, but fewer off-road opportunities.
- No new OHV parks in California in 25 years.
- Not certain wildlife agencies have data showing impacts on wildlife.
- OHV Commission has diverted funds from enforcement and stewardship of facilities to restoration.

### **Provide quality opportunity for growing demand**

- Need to spend more funds on maintaining and rehabilitating OHV facilities.
- If OHV areas are maintained, people will take care of them. If they are a mess, people abuse them.
- Provide quality opportunity, what the OHV enthusiast is looking for.
- Need to include analysis of economics of OHV—takes money to provide opportunity.
- Prevention approach: to prevent illegal OHV activity and damage to natural resources, more should be invested in good facilities and enforcement rather than restoration.

### **Education and communication**

- Give reason (e.g., wildlife conservation) to appreciate and protect or value the resource.
- People must understand and accept the logic of the restrictions or law.
- Must educate youth and adults.
- Need to educate kids on the wise use of OHVs.
- Check education Web site: N2DIRT.
- Threaten closures to get OHV community attention.
- Create incentives to care and partner with agencies.
- Communicate with OHV public about how public can help and how to implement programs.
- Provide the information to the public to distribute and learn from.

### **Education venues and outreach:**

- Meetings between agencies and recreationists.
- On-the-ground canvass effort—distribute materials everywhere an enthusiast might be.
- OHV facility parking lots are very good places to educate people; that is where you can contact most riders.
- Education materials should be in hands of all agencies on the ground to hand out.
- Public Service Announcements—(youth and adult versions) all media outlets.
- Provide rewards for helping to educate (pins, etc.); big with kids, and they will share the information with parents.
- Provide school curriculum for kids under age 10.
- Billboards are good.
- Web site
- Maps
- Need signs at specific areas of concern.
- Need more and better interpretive information.

- Rules and regulations need to be clearly communicated to public.
- Dealers need to actively provide education info.

### **Education Meetings**

- Advantage: face-to-face.
- Disadvantage: Groups generally not the people who are causing the problem and need the message.

### **Education through schools and with kids**

- Advantage: Once changed, it is holistic
- Disadvantage: Takes time and resources.

### **Need rider certification of some kind**

- Need certification on driver license, or certification for youth. Must learn rules to be certified.
- Need mandatory rule card similar to a fishing license.
- Need OHV certificate for young riders. Need booklet and test.

### **Enforcement**

- Commission reducing funding for OHV enforcement.
- Agencies—meet responsibility for enforcement, management, and education.
- Provide patrol and closure signs.
- Some State Parks enforcement officers are excellent. (Example: rangers at Hollister.)
- Make violation consequences severe.
- Enforcement should track violations, so rider gets a couple of warnings then a stiff penalty. (Currently no way to track rider violations.)
- Word-of-mouth of penalty shapes behavior.
- It is more effective to tell what is right than wrong. Positive approaches more effective than negative.
- Most people want to do the right thing; peer pressure to do the right thing is great.

### **Major Points**

- Need to increase quality opportunity.
- Need enforcement and fines.
- Consider OHV certification.
- Need good education effort through many venues.

## **Roundtable Participants**

- **AMADOR, DONALD**, Blue Ribbon Coalition
- **BARNES, GEORGE**, Sierra Club
- **BARNETT, GARY**, U.S. Forest Service, Truckee Ranger District
- **BELL, DANA**, National OHV Conservation Council
- **BUNN, DAVID**, University of California, Davis
- **CORTEZ, ROSARIO**, Department of Parks and Recreation
- **FARRINGTON, RICH**, U.S. Forest Service
- **FISHER, RICK**, California Off Road Vehicle Association
- **GIBSON, JIM**, Snowlands Network
- **GINN, KEITH**, U.S. Forest Service
- **GREENE, DAPHNE**, Department of Parks and Recreation
- **HAAGEN-SMIT, JIM**, International Mountain Bicycling Association
- **HAM, BOB**, Imperial County Executive Office
- **HANSEN, LINDA**, BLM California Desert District
- **HARIS, NICK**, National American Motorcyclist Association
- **HOFMANN, JOHN**, Regional Council of Rural Counties
- **JONES, BECKY**, Department of Fish and Game
- **KEYES, JOHN**, Back Country Horsemen Association
- **KLOCK, BRIAN**, Department of Parks and Recreation
- **KLUSMAN, DON**, California Association of 4WD Clubs
- **MCNAY, MARK**, Imperial Country Sheriff's Department
- **MICK, KATHY**, Department of Parks and Recreation
- **OAKLEAF, DAVE**, American Motorcyclist Association—District 37
- **PEREZ, TONY**, Department of Parks and Recreation
- **PICKETT, DAVE**, American Motorcyclist Association—District 36
- **RUGG, BILL**, California-Nevada Snowmobile Association
- **SCHAMBACH, KAREN**, Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation
- **SILVERNAIL, LOIS**, CORVA and Disabled Access Interests
- **SOENS, HAROLD**, American Motorcyclist Association—District 38
- **WALDHEIM, ED**, California Trails User Coalition and OHMVR Commission
- **WARD, TOM**, Department of Parks and Recreation
- **WELCH, VIRGIL**, Planning and Conservation League