

ORBA

ORBA - A Trade Association for Motorized Off-Road Businesses

Below is a list of meetings and/or events ORBA staff has attended recently:

February 5, 2010 - Scoping meeting for Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision.

February 8, 2010 - Meeting with San Bernardino County Supervisors Derry and Miztelfelt about S.2921, The California Desert Protection Act of 2010.

February 10, 2010 - King Off-Road Racing Shocks held a benefit raffle for ORBA at the 2010 King of The Hammers Race in Johnson Valley, CA.

February 11 -15, 2010 - Dealernews Dealer Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana. The largest powersports trade show in the country.

February 18, 2010 - Met with the Barstow Chamber of Commerce about S.2921, the California Desert Protection Act of 2010.

February 19, 2010 - Met with the San Bernardino Association of Governments (SANBAG) about S.2921, the California Desert Protection Act of 2010.

February 23, 2010 - Testified in front of Apple Valley City Council on behalf of S.2921, The California Desert Protection Act of 2010.

February 25, 2010 - Field checked the Blue Bell Mine trail - northern loop - in the Soda Mountains proposed wilderness area in S.2921. That trail will now be excluded from the Wilderness area.

February 25, 2010 - California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission Meeting (OHMVR) - Attended meeting of OHMVR Commission. On the agenda this meeting was an update of Carnegie SVRA, Clear Creek Management Area, S.2921 The Desert Protection Act of 2010 and the grants program.

ORBA

HOW ORBA WORKS FOR YOU

Work with local, state & federal land managers to ensure access to public lands.

Protect, promote and represent the off-road recreation industry.

Educate state and local leaders about the economic value of our industry.

Utilize lobbyists to be pro-active on political issues.

Utilize an attorney to work through the various administrative processes and litigate on issues when necessary.

WANT TO SEE WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO LATELY?



Freedom TRAILS

THE ORBA NEWSLETTER

Freedom TRAILS

THE ORBA NEWSLETTER

April 2010



ORBA

Off-Road Business Association, Inc.

www.orba.biz

661.323.1464

1701 Westwind Drive #216, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Freedom TRAILS

THE ORBA NEWSLETTER

The Latest Land Use Updates

S. 2921 - The California Desert Protection Act of 2010

On February 12, 2010 ORBA and AMA D37, both the Off-Road and Dual Sport Divisions, officially announced their support for S.2921 the California Desert Protection Act of 2010. It was introduced on December 21, 2009 by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. Our support is contingent upon the language in the bill remaining in its current form as it works its way through the legislative process. Other OHV organizations supporting this bill are the American Sand Association (ASA) and the San Diego Off-Road Coalition (SDORC).

I am sure many of you are asking "Why in the heck would any OHV organization ever be in support of a bill sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein?" Almost two years ago several OHV organizations were approached by Senator Feinstein's staff. We were told the Senator was considering another Wilderness bill and she wanted to know what the OHV community would like to see in a bill dealing with the California high desert. ORBA and D37 got back to the Senator's office with a very long wish list. Her office was also working with some environmental organizations; they also gave her a very long wish list. Neither of us got everything we wanted!

The result of these negotiations is S.2921. There are four main components to this bill. The most important component to the OHV community is the proposed congressional designation of the five open areas in San Bernardino County: Stoddard Valley, Rasor, El Mirage, Spangler Hills and Johnson Valley. These areas are designated open because of land use management decisions made by the BLM. This bill is proposing that con-

gress give them a designation of Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas. Having Congress state that the main purpose for these areas is to provide OHV recreation opportunities has never happened before to our knowledge. Also as part of this bill it directs the BLM to study land adjacent to the OHV areas for possible expansion.

This designation will also afford these areas some protection from commercial development. As you may well realize there is a huge push to develop renewable resources in the desert. Much of the desert is not available for these projects because of habitat and species concerns therefore our OHV areas will come under pressure to be used for them. To our knowledge this designation has never been given to an open area before.

This bill also creates two National Monuments. OHV use on designated trails within these areas will continue to be allowed. There is actual language in the bill that our attorney helped create that protects our right to use OHV's on designated trails. Essentially the OHV language in these monuments protects our right to recreate on over 1 million acres of public land in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The reason these areas are becoming monuments is to restrict commercial development, mainly large scale solar facilities.

Someone once said: "Remember, once Wilderness, FOREVER Wilderness." There is also a wilderness component to this bill. The reason so much time was spent on this legislation by OHV groups is exactly that, once it is wilderness it probably can't be changed, so we need to get our objectives in the legislation NOW and not cry about it later. Once the bill is law it would be impossible to change and add OHV routes or areas that would be affected. So OHV groups, including ORBA, have spent literally hundreds of hours in the field with Feinstein's staff to identify the routes that would be affected and have those excluded from these areas so they can continue to be utilized by OHV recreationists.

The renewable energy component of the bill improves and streamlines the process to permit large-scale wind and solar development on suitable public and private lands in the California desert. It also allows developers of these projects new mitigation options.

We believe that it would be naive to think that in the current political climate this legislation would not be approved. So it is to our benefit to work with the Senator's staff to identify routes and locations that should not be included because they would adversely affect recreation users.

We sincerely appreciate Senator Feinstein and her staff for taking a collaborative approach on this piece of legislation. A variety of stakeholders, including off-roaders, environmentalists, and local residents, were consulted early on in the process. This bill protects long standing recreation areas, sensitive desert lands, and allows for responsible renewable energy development.

Clear Creek Socio-Economic Meeting

The Bureau of Land Management's Hollister Field Office hosted a workshop on February 22nd to discuss potential social and economic impacts of the alternatives in their Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) draft resource management plan (DRMP) and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). Fred Wiley, President/CEO of ORBA, was invited to participate in the discussion panel that also included businesses from the OHV industry like Motion Pro, Cycle Gear and KTM. Other types of businesses were represented as well, including local motels, service stations, restaurants and auto dealers. The goal of the workshop was to provide business leaders, private landowners and local government with information about the draft plan and to help the BLM identify social and economic trends to consider in land use planning decisions for Clear Creek.

The attendees divided into sub-groups based on their business interest. ORBA participated with the OHV businesses. The OHV group gave the BLM input on how much their businesses have been directly affected by the Clear Creek emergency closure. The reality is that the emergency closure has been the cause of a 30% reduction in OHV related business for the area. They also explained how the reduction in business translates to the economy, jobs and ultimately the cumulative affect on the local and state economy. We wanted to make it clear that the existing closure has had a dramatic affect on jobs.

After the sub groups finished compiling their information, the large group joined back together. At this point each group was given the opportunity to discuss how their particular business segment has been affected by the emergency closure. In addition, there was discussion about how this closure would affect these businesses futures if it were to become permanent. ORBA has submitted comments on the DRMP/DEIS and will continue to closely monitor this situation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sand Sports Off-Road & Motorsports SuperSwap

April 18, 2010 - Hidden Valley Park, Irvine CA

www.sansportssuperswap.com

NO TRAILS = NO SALES
www.orba.biz

The Voice of the Off-Road Recreation Industry



Off-Road Business Association, Inc.