

ORBA

ORBA - A Trade Association for Motorized Off-Road Businesses

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

June 15, 2010 – WEMO Lawsuit – ORBA staff met with EcoLogic Partners attorney Daveid Hubbard at his office in Carlsbad, CA office to review WEMO documents and formulate strategy.

June 17, 2010 – Lark Canyon Wind Farm – A meeting between ORBA Staff EcoLogic Attorney David Hubbard, Representatives from the American Desert Foundation and Ibedrola Energy was held to discuss possible mitigation measures for their Tule Wind project which is partially located in the Lark Canyon OHV Area in eastern San Diego County, CA.

June 18-19, 2010 – BLM DAC Meeting in Ridgecrest, CA. See in-depth article inside.

June 23, 2010 – ORBA staff met with representatives from State Senator's Ducheny and Hollingsworth, CA. State Parks and the Anza Borrego Foundation and Institute and other various OHV stakeholders about a possible legislative solution to the management of the Truchkhaven area located just north of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA and just east of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park in Imperial County, CA.



Trail in the Avawatz proposed wilderness area in San Bernardino County, CA

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

August 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

BLM California Desert Advisory Council (DAC) Meeting Focuses on Engaging in the Renewable Energy Process for Projects Planned on Public Lands

On Saturday June 19, 2010 the BLM held its Desert Advisory Council (DAC) meeting in Ridgecrest, CA. These meetings are held by the BLM to take public input. As is the tradition for these meetings Friday DAC members and public are invited to a tour put on by the local field office.

The tour for this quarters meeting took us to the proposed Ridgecrest Solar Power Project, several areas where there were wind monitoring projects, lunch at Coso Junction and ended with a short hike to Fossil Falls.

A good portion of the meeting on Saturday focused on how the DAC should advise the BLM on the many renewable energy projects slated for public lands and how to best engage and educate the public on the impacts of these projects. It was decided that a DAC some members would volunteer to 'adopt' a few projects and give an informational presentation to the DAC at its next meeting in October. Meg Grossglass, ORBA employee and DAC member volunteered give presentations about two renewable energy projects as did April Sall of The Wildlands Conservancy and Lloyd Gunn a representative of The Society of Peninsular Big Horn Sheep.

NO TRAILS = NO SALES
www.orba.biz

I Need a Title Here Miss Meg!

On July 8, 2010 Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA hosted a Listening Session for The America's Great Outdoors Presidential Initiative. On April 16, 2010 The Obama administration launched this initiative in an effort to get input from the public on how best to promote and support innovative community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and to reconnect Americans to the great outdoors.

The event started at 3pm at which time the audience was subjected to a litany of speeches by the following presenters:

Jonathon Veitch - President Occidental College
Antonio Villaraigosa - Mayor of Los Angeles
Lisa Jackson - Administrator - Environmental Protection Agency
Ken Salazar - Secretary, Department of the Interior
Nancy Sutley - Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality
Harris Sherman - Undersecretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Jo-Ellen Darcy - Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Bruce Saito - Executive Director, LA Conservation Corp
Cecilia Estolano - Chief Strategist, Green for All
Kevin Kester - President -elect, California Cattleman's Association
Renata Simril - Senior Vice President, Forest City Enterprises, Inc.

Not a single one of these presenters or the short video that was played mentioned OHV recreation. Several times Mayor Villaraigosa mentioned the "Dream Team" sitting in front of us that had been assembled by President Obama. I found myself asking "what did these people do to become a Dream Team?" According to the literature put out these were supposed to be listening sessions. Therefore I can only assume that this "Dream Team" was going to do something pretty great after hearing the public's thoughts.

We listened to this group for over 1 1/2 hours before getting a chance to speak. During the public comment period ORBA staff member, Meg Grossglass, was lucky enough to be one of the few public speakers. She asked that every land management agency produce a comprehensive OHV recreation plan, additionally she asked that OHV recreation receive more funding in the federal budget and that more OHV areas receive congressional protection like is being proposed in the S. 2921 the California Desert Protection act of 2010.



Trail in the Avawatz proposed wilderness area in San Bernardino County, CA

It seemed as if the focus of this meeting was how to reconnect LA's inner city youth to the great outdoors. This was very interesting to the rather large OHV crowd that showed up to be HEARD. Why such a narrow focus in a part of the country that is home to a GREAT DIVERSITY of recreation interests. Southern California is home to the Mojave Desert and several National Forests all of which are primarily managed by the Federal Government. It was very disconcerting that this listening session appeared to have such a limited scope.

After the speakers and public comment session we were divided into break out sessions. The break out sessions did not seem to be driven in one way or another by the facilitators and there was a good mix of recreation and conservation interests. Hopefully the "Dream Team" assembled by President Obama did some listening and will take into consideration the needs of OHV recreation. Only time will tell.

For more information about these listening sessions and the America's Great Outdoor Initiative go to <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors>

Upcoming Events

Sand Sports Super Show - September 17, 18 & 19, 2010
Orange County Fair and Event Center - Costa Mesa, California
www.sandsportssupershow.com

Lucas Oil Off-Road Expo - October 9 & 10, 2010
Pomona Fairplex - Pomona, California
www.offroadexpo.com



Off-Road Business Association, Inc.

The Voice of the Off-Road Recreation Industry