

State of affairs In Arizona,

What's up and going on that will affect your privilege to ride.

This is an update of my 2009 State Of the State please see 2010 updates in red for most current info on these OHV issues! Look at the Issues and scroll down for solutions and how I am work on these problems.

Thanks Jeff Gursh AZOHVC and ATR

- 1) **State lands and dust.** Date not set for possible closure of ASLD lands in non attainment areas but it's coming.

UPDATE 2/18/10 ASLD continues to use dust ordinances as a means to close OHV use down. Pinal County is next area to be forced into PM 10 no attainment and ASLD is already looking at closing land in this County. Peoria is now enforcing rules similar to Scottsdale to eliminate OHV use, some of Boulders area is in the City.

- 2) **City dust ordinances** such as Scottsdale's need revision. Lobbyist is best way to get it done.

UPDATE 2009: The Granite Mountain OHV /multiuse area remains in limbo with both ASLD and City of Scottsdale blaming each other for the closure.....mean time , AZOHVC and Game and Fish both continue to offer management and dollars to reopen area as managed before.....

on **2/8/2010** ASLD removed map signs at Granite Mountain and placed closed to all Vehicluar traffic signs at all the entry points to Granite Mountain. COS dust ordinances were named as reason to close. Also, COS has an application for a SLUP to take control or this land for their park.....instead of buying the land Figures for this SLUP \$25,000 a year.....last value for the land if bought 2008 1billion dollars.....**What I would like to do.** Run a full page ad in the paper during bike week, Scottsdale discriminates against Motorcycles and closes down managed OHV /multiuse area.....AMA Pres Dingham just wrote to AMA members in Jan of 2010 to work together (Street Bikes and OHV Bikes) to protect our rightshere is an example of a City writing an ordinance to eliminate a use rather than address a dust issue. Boycott Scottsdale! Anyone coming to AZ to enjoy the OHV trails should know that Scottsdale (and now Peoria) should be bypassed as a place to spend you dollars.....they are anti Access cities. **NOTE: Peoria recently started enforcing their new dust near the Boulders OHV area ordinance too.**

- 3) **Wilderness Society wants to 'protect' BLM lands west of Phx all the way to Kofa NWR.** This means no OHV.....ASLD has asked for areas in this region that could be OHV sites...do you see the mixed messages I get here? Help manage OHV and Closing it too?

UPDATE: 2/18/2010 Conservation folks continue to work on tying up this land and eliminating OHV use at the same time. Couple this with the increase in interest in solar fields and we will lose our OHV access to this area.

- 4) **BLM R&PP on S. side of White Tanks to Buckeye** almost complete. Buckeye agreed to a 2006 proposal to allow the existing rock crawler trails in this area to remain...NOW blaming BLM for exclusion of OHV.

UPDATE:2/18/2010 Tried to work out deal with Buckeye and BLM to allow OHV , in particular the rock crawlers that were the biggest user in this area, but lack of help from OHV killed project. White Tanks will be a non motorized park. Still on hold because of the economy!

- 5) **Ballot initiative to change state constitution** and 'preserve' 600,000 acres including Granite Mtn and New River state land could be on the ballot this fall. This is now possible to be on the Ballot this spring or in a legislative Bill, whichever will require less input from public. Language is being worked on to allow "groups " to acquire ASLD land without purchasingjust preserve it.....Of course, motorized use is banned from all saved lands. Yes , we could acquire lands but no motorized use would be allowed on that saved land. This one will affect how both BLM and FS land is connected across ASLD parcels.

UPDATE: 2/18/10 ASLD reform did not make it to committee. So, if it is to be enacted, it will have to be done in a special session or go to the ballot like the sales tax proposal will. NOTE: no stake holder has been included in this latest way to take State Trust land out of the picture for everyone to enjoy. No hunters or sportsmen or any recreation have had any inputmy opinion, it's a no vote on the reformuntil ALL Stake holders are included at the table to make a decision.

- 6) **Phx BLM wants to comply with 5 miles of trail stabilization** per year, but no funding stream in sight. This could be solved by the new OHV sticker money if we can continue to stave off sweeps.

UPDATE 2009: Maricopa county Dust rules will kill OHV use if we do not comply with the rules we helped write. WE need to do the dust treatment in the high use areas such as at the BOULDERS OHV area. The loss of OHV decal/gas tax dollars to legislative sweeps has caused a huge problem with how to fund this work. So far, AZOHVC has been able to write grants to treat the area.....but funding is gone for 50% of this years needs and all of 2010. I have currently been working with the dust treatment companies testing different products at the Boulders. Part of the Assistance Agreement I did with the BLM in 2009 placed funds in a account for us to buy dust treatment.

UPDATE 2/18/2010, I have had enough money to treat and keep the Boulders open. Currently working with BLM staff to find a permanent solution to the dust issue in this area.

The real problem with the dust ordinances is not the State Or County rules, we help write those....most cases exclude managed and designated routes and or areas open by or for the managing land agency for OHV/vehicular travel. NO, the problem is now each City is allowed to write a stricter version of the County /state rule and they are closing all land to vehicular travel.....Of course they have exceptions...Like if in the normal course of business, you make dust or the City makes money off of the use (hot air balloon retrieval) or tours, jeep , bike , atv) its ok to make dust.....but John Q Public is

banned. Peoria and Scottsdale have already implemented rule and are giving warnings and writing tickets.

- 7) **BLM, Maricopa County parks and Nature Conservancy working on Cooperative Management Agreement** for north side of Vulture Peak (south of Wickenburg). NO OHV.

UPDATE:2/18/2010 AZOHVC is working with BLM to develop the WEST side of the Vulture Mtn. Area as a managed system like the BOULDERS. East side would be limited to existing routes due to Raptor nesting issues. Looks good so far. This may also be an opportunity to work with County parks to form OHV multiuse trail system and parking areas as we are also attempting in the Buckeye Hills area.

- 8) **Opportunity for County parks to lease trust land** for OHV use (??). Does not look like County will back this one.

UPDATE:2/18/10 Looks like County Parks may approach BLM to develop staging areas on BLM land , charge a fee to park and use BLM trails.....AZOHVC is currently working with County Parks to see how we can develop the trail systems needed for these projects and partner with them on grants to fund. Partnership could work like this, similar to the Assistance agreement with BLM, we would write the grants with County and do trail layout and possible construction of routes, signage and such. County would manage parking and infrastructure for a small feelike the Feds REA act ... stay tuned

- 9) **Stereo types , good science and Long term**, restoration of damaged land in OHV areas. It is very important to repair damaged areas inside OHV areas as we repair trails and create staging areas to help manage OHV use. IT does not matter who damaged the land, fixing it is the right thing to do!

UPDATE:2/18/10 Two grants were secured to work on trails and rehab in the BOULDERS OHV Area and the TABLE MESA AREA. Both should start in 2010. First phase at the BLM Boulders OHV area has been completed. Trail repairs on LP 5,8,9,10 and rehab work in staging and access road areas have been completed. As soon as NEPA for the Table Mesa area is completed, work will start in this area. Keeping OHV use out of the rehab areas is crucial to showing that managed , responsible use can also care for the landjust like any other non motorized trails system does. To date areas have come back after rehab in as little as 10 months, I just need to get past my inherent need to create a pattern with the replanted cactus!

- 10) **Solar fields and land access/loss.**

UPDATE: 2/18/10 Still will be a huge issue in 2010.BLM is cuurrently accepting comments on up to 10 sq miles of solar field on BLM lands. This will close all access to these areas and most likely be fenced in. Both OHV and other non motorized users will be displaced as well as wildlife migration corridors. Don't take public land for commercial only use! What you had not heard about the public meetings ??? You don't visit federal registry on a regular basis?? No one sent you an email? This is how we lose! You don't hear about the public Air Quality meetings either.....MY complaint is we as the public can not be treated like the big business groups ie contractors, mining , cattle , farming....they

have associations that do nothing but lobby for their benefit. We as the public should not be lumped in with this group and expected to comment on how we want things to work for us...last Parsk survey found that 2 million Arizonians considered themselves OHVers.....but there were only 3 of us at the last public meeting!

11) **Comments on the soon to be release Prescott FS Trails maps.**

UPDATE 2010: Period over and AZOHVC submitted comments on over 100 missing routes. TNF all districts , started their Travel Management public scoping for motorized trails , first round of comments and meetings ended DEC 4th 2009.

AZOHVC and Friends of Sycamore submitted plans for the Mesa and Cave Creek Districts , but due to lack of time to comment and the usual OHV user apathy, few if any commented on the remaining districts such as Globe and Payson. This spring the TNF will publish the results of the plan that include this latest round of public input.

12) Petition to list the Sonoran Desert Tortoise on the Endanger list.

UPDATE 2/18/10: Still moving forward. This will kill your OHV riding in any area that figures in as tortoise habitat!

13) **COE scoping meeting on Trilby wash study. Done.**

14) **OHV sticker update**

Possible Solutions To above issues OHV will face in 2010

2009 State lands continues their politiking to close as much area to OHV use as possible. Legislative intervention is needed. Also, we need to investigate what a 'public trust' is required to provide regarding public access. Through access to the Tonto maybe possible across state land at Granite Mtn and to BLM at MM4, possible staging areas to access these sites and trails is still in the works. Other large blocks of land in the Table Mesa area need rescue. Compare the County Area A map to those of popular use areas. Also, being in Maricopa county makes the public subject to P27 and P28, an added difficulty in riding/wheeling legally due to the dust issues and city's attempt to use the ordinances as a way to close OHV rather than address the dust problem (see Scottsdale GM)

NOTE:2009

If legislators won't act to stop state lands from doing the unthinkable, there is recourse. State lands wants someone else to take over OHV management on state lands...and pay for a special land use permit (SLUP). That means dust suppression would be the responsibility of the permittee. *Remember, 5miles of routes need to be stabilized each year and no dust can cross property boundary lines. Look to game and fish, state parks, county parks and the AZOHVC itself are all possible partners/solutions.*)

UPDATE:2/18/10 Looks like Scottsdale will get their cheap SLUP and acquire all the rights of ownership without the cost to buy the land and with no benefit to the Beneficiaries of the Trust.....the schools. As mentioned before, Game and Fish were and ironically still are talking to Scottsdale who say they have made no decision.....yet they have applied for the SLUP and plan on deciding who will be able to access this ASLD land. WE (ATR and AZOHVC) had approached State Lands on doing SLUPS to acquire areas that have been historically use as OHV trails and were told YES we could get a SLUP but we would not have the

right to say who could also use those trails and we would be responsible for all dust treatment and or ordinances to comply with. Nice to see how rules are made to be bent and that the ideas being floated behind closed doors to reform State Trust land rules would include taking money away from the Schools such as this latest deal with Scottsdale will do.

What I would like to do. Run a full page ad in the paper during bike week, Scottsdale discriminates against Motorcycles and closes down managed OHV /multiuse area.....AMA Pres Dingham just wrote to AMA members in Jan of 2010 to work together (Street Bikes and OHV Bikes) to protect our rightshere is an example of a City writing an ordinance to eliminate a use rather than address a dust issue. Boycott Scottsdale! Anyone coming to AZ to enjoy the OHV trails should know that Scottsdale (and now Peoria) should be bypassed as a place to spend you dollars.....they are anti Access cities. If you can cancel a reservation in Scottsdale and get one close by in say Phoenix or Paradise Valley, Tell the hotel why you canceled.....Maybe the hotel should let the city know why you took you dollars elsewhere? Hey, just thinking.

1. **2009 Some cities have elected to outlaw OHV use by the passage of dust rules** that are more strict than Maricopa County's rule. Local OHV activists need to approach the city councils and request the revision request to be put on the agenda and provide verbage that should replace the existing. Then, they need to attend each council meeting until the issue is heard. Towns that need revision include Scottsdale and and Goodyear. Peoria needs to revise the reference to riding on state lands possibly. Locals need to be involved and come together as a committee to make a plan on how propose change. Then changes need to be brought forth. *Lobbyist is the best source to get us in the door politically for these problems.....more on that in Jeffs Work week section!*

UPDATE 2/18/10 lack of funds and support from the OHV community last year lost AZOHVC its legal /lobbyist for all most 5 months. In that time period, Additional cities enacted stricter that County or State dust rules. You will get a ticket now in Goodyear , Scottsdale and Peoria if you are caught on any surface that is not paved! Of course , unless you are a Balloonist, a tour group paying the City or a gravel company or a contractor or a farmer or a cattle men or just about anything other than the public! Ah democracy..... Its for your own good right? **Still working with Game And Fish on this and Pinal County rules.**

2. **2009 This is a biggy. Wilderness Society et al are working on something big** that would encompass at least BLM lands to the west of Phx all the way to the Kofa Nat. Wildlife Refuge. That means Saddle Mountain in Tonopah, the Gila Bend Mtns west of Gila Bend all the way across to Wellton on I-8. The Army has had their eye on this stretch of land for testing an artillery gun that shoots over 50miles. Route designation is not going their way and their wilderness proposals are not being received well. They want to get something going their way. There are two indicators currently. AWC newspaper has an article on this area and they

are looking for people to take data and pictures. Secondly, BLM received a non-foia request for route data, areas heavily used (and abused) by OHV, mining claim locations, right of way applications pending. Basically they made a broad request for everything. (note- The Agua Fria monument would have included Bumble Bee if it wasn't for the number of mining claims, so (mining) is a big factor in creating new monuments). ***This area has not had the AZOHVC management ideas applied to it like the Boulders OHV area and we have not had the dollars to help BLM manage this area yet. WE will need to show how and where OHV can co exist in this area without the damage from the yahoos that Conservation Community see us all as.***

UPDATE 2/18/10 Well as you can see from above update from Jan 2009, for 2010 it's a big deal. Below is the latest 2010 bulletin for AMA on this issue. Not only was this a back door agreementits been in the works for quiet some time.

How will it affect us in AZ?? When we wrote the OHV bill in 2007, we excluded wilderness areas as places to put /spend OHV dollars and said so in the Bill. If this overlay actually happens.....no funds could be spent in these areas and even if they were to be allowed to have OHV use....there would be no funding that could be spent to do needed work to repair or develop the system. Now the conservation folks might say who cares?? But as I have said all alongeveryone gets to their sport or recreation in a motorized vehicle....bird watching hunting , fishing , hiking , horseback riding will all be affected when there are no roads, not parking **areas** and no way to treat the areas routes for the inevitable dust rules....(PM2.5).

We need congress and the new administration to follow not just the rules governing this type of designation but also the spirit of ALL recreation needs to be considered on public land. Public land, land we all pay our taxes to preserve and hopefully enjoy.....the government frowns on discrimination of all kinds, eliminating one public recreation for someone else recreation sure sound like a problem.

How to start , FOIA the BLM for information on all conversations with BLM , protecting areas/lands West of Phoenix. This would need to go thru the state office

Congress reacts with outrage to administration plan to take public lands without public debate 2010

PICKERINGTON, Ohio -- Bipartisan reaction was swift following the publication by the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) and others of an internal Department of Interior (DOI) document that revealed the agency's plan to designate without public debate as many as 13 million acres of public and private land in the West as National Monument areas.

According to DOI documents obtained by the AMA, the administration is considering new National Monument designations totaling 13 million acres in 11 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

"The Obama administration continues to put the needs of environmentalists who want to keep the public away from public lands above the needs and desires of Utahns," Sen. Robert Bennett (R-Utah) said.

Rep. Doc Hastings (R-Wash.), ranking member of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, echoed Bennett's thoughts that the administration is bowing to anti-access groups.

"There are special interest groups whose sole purpose is to lock up land without any consideration given to the importance of wholesome outside family recreation," Hastings said. "While they are entitled to that view, it's deeply troubling that the President's administration is seemingly eager to help turn that view into reality by unilaterally imposing new monument designations without the consent of the people and communities who will be directly impacted."

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, and ranking member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, noted that people from around the world visit the West to take advantage of broad-ranging recreational opportunities.

"Unfortunately, the current administration seems intent upon locking up much of the public lands throughout the West from recreational use, as witnessed in the documents that recently surfaced from the Department of Interior outlining new areas for potential national monument designations," Bishop said. "I commend the American Motorcyclist Association for its continued advocacy on behalf of not only motorcycle enthusiasts but all outdoor recreators, who are an important component of the West's tourism industry."

Interior Department spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff told the Salt Lake (Utah) Tribune that the documents that created the uproar were simply the result of a "brainstorming session" at the department.

But Rep. Jim Matheson (D-Utah) remained concerned: "Given the lingering frustration felt by many Utahns following the 1996 'stroke of the pen' monument designation (of the Clinton administration's 1.9 million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument), it is totally inappropriate for this federal agency to even have preliminary discussions without involving the stakeholders on the ground."

"It remains incumbent upon the government to responsibly protect our lands for the people, not from the people," said Ed Moreland, AMA vice president for government relations. "And that means proposals for land-use designations must be fairly debated. This proposal is not only an end-run around Congress, but also around the individuals and communities who would be directly impacted by this type of administrative maneuver."

"We are pleased to hear that there is bipartisan, bi-cameral support for an open dialogue on the long-contentious issue of public-land designations," Moreland said. "We hope that this issue will serve as a catalyst for bringing together both sides of the debate to work out any differences and preserve opportunities for responsible recreation on America's public lands for all Americans."

To take action on this issue, go to AmericanMotorcyclist.com > Rights > Issues and Legislation. To receive e-mail alerts, sign up in the "Get Involved" section of the Rights page.

2009 ,I missed the boat on asking GW Bush for a presidential gift in the form of an executive order(E.O) or a public land order(P.L.O) to protect public access to this stretch of land. Any order should have recognized the multitude of recreation pursuits offered by these areas including OHV use and long distance travel over unpaved roads. It's easily accessible from Phoenix and offers long distance travel between Phoenix, Gila Bend, Tonopah, Yuma and Quartzite. ***It's basically the "Mojave" of central Arizona. That's a huge area. We need to work with the conservation folks we partnered with on the OHV Bill and get the long distance corridors put in place!.....SORRY ! 1/3/09***

- 3. Phx BLM is almost complete in processing the Recreation and Public Purposes Act patent** for the south side of the White Tank Mtns to the City of

Buckeye. Apparently this has been in the works for several years. This is the “MO” of the Lands and Realty folks at Phx BLM. *The Reality Folks don't always consider existing use(OHV) and have in this case decided that there is no OHV use based on the fact that the BLM did not bother to inventory this area.* It's likely that there was no public hearing, only a quiet release of information on the BLM website. *By the way, I sure could use someone to help me by watching the NEPA page on BLM's webpage.* The same goes for the SOPA(Statement of Proposed Actions) on the national forest's websites. *I would like to look online at the NEPA page first. Then inquire about getting a permit out there for an event. We will probably be discouraged from applying for a permit, then you can ask why. I have met twice with Rep Jerry Weiers and BLM on this issue and continue to work on it.....*

UPDATE 2/18/10 this is on hold , the economy has put a hold on funds and until funding is available, this will sit. *Sad to say, City has backed out of original agreements with 4x4 to include trails in park.*

5. **The usual suspects are going to have a ballot initiative again** to change the state constitution to allow the sale of state trust land for conservation without competition. *OHV use is not considered, but could have been , we are stake holders like any of the other groups that were included. Sounds like it needs to be tanked if we can not have access to existing historic OHV use areas.* The home builders association looks to back initiative Because legislator are promising not to implement impact fees on the builders. (similar to last year) Tax payers *(that would be you OHVers)* have to pay now and we still get pushed down by not being included in 'conservation' lands. Also, this initiative would pave the way for Granite Mtn to become part of Scottsdale's preserve, *this would give Scottsdale one of the most expensive sections of ASLD land for peanuts.* Trust land in New River is also on the chopping block. It's a neat piece of land that was used in the 2007 Bike Week dualsport ride. Locals are currently running amok there, but it's saveable if managed. *This is another reason to continue to support the OHV sticker program, it will put OHV dollars to good use on this type of project.*

UPDATE 2/23/10 ASLD reform did not make it to committee. So, if it is to be enacted, it will have to be done in a special session or go to the ballot like the sales tax proposal will. NOTE: no stake holder has been included in this latest way to take State Trust land out of the picture for everyone to enjoy. No hunters or sportsmen or any recreation have had any inputmy opinion, it's a no vote on the reformuntil ALL Stake holders are included at the table to make a decision. *This one will affect how both BLM and FS land is connected across ASLD parcels.* No access means new roads or trails around, that means more fighting with Conservation folks who do not want new trails created.....be nice if they recognized that keeping the existing OHV routes on ASLD land instead of closing would accomplish just thatno new bypass routes.

6. **To comply with county rules, Phx BLM needs to be ready to begin** complying with the 5 miles of stabilized routes(per year) inside the new Area A boundary.

Boulders area and the surrounding areas are the hot spot, but there is no funding source to purchase materials or apply it. A fund could be set up to purchase Durasoil or Envirokleen and volunteers or paid contractors could apply it. This is the best plan of action until the dust rules are relaxed or changed. *We are currently working on a Assistance Agreement to do this work thru AZOHVC... OHV Sticker Dollars can /will pay for the materials and we volunteer to apply! Also, County fine dollars may go to a grant Slush fund that could be tapped for dust treatment material purchases.....Wow, fine dollars that actually be used to help , not fund the “black Hole”!*

UPDATE 2/18/2010, I have had enough money to treat and keep the Boulders open. Currently working with BLM staff to find a permanent solution to the dust issue in this area. 2 Separate treatments have been done to entire area (access road and staging) and tot lot is also cover. We signed our Assistance agreement with the BLM in Oct of 2009 and have done dust treatment and trail repairs as dust mitigations on 27 miles of trail. All count towards counties 5 mile a year rule.

Latest test is of Tol Oil from National Land Management company.

The real problem with the dust ordinances is not the State Or County rules, we help write those....most cases exclude managed and designated routes and or areas open by or for the managing land agency for OHV/vehicular travel. *NO , the problem is now each City is allowed to write a stricter version of the County /state rule and they are closing all land to vehicular travel.....Of course they have exceptions...Like if in the normal course of business, you make dust or the City makes money off of the use (hot air balloon retrieval) or tours, jeep , bike , atv) its ok to make dust.....but John Q Public is banned. Peoria and Scottsdale have already implemented rule and are giving warnings and writing tickets. Peoria is writing tickets for OHV on BLM land at the Boulders and north of Hwy 74 and using their new dust ordinance to shut down OHV use.*

Peoria currently sends anyone on the South side of 74 to the Boulders to Play, now they are interpreting the rules to read only signed open trails can be ridden.....Another reason to keep that lobbyist of our! *Will run out of funds in April to pay for Lobbyist services.*

7. **2009 South of Wickenburg and the Hassayampa river**, BLM is engaged in planning to do a Cooperative Management Agreement where Maricopa County parks and Nature Conservancy would manage this piece of land. BLM rejected county parks' R&PP application for 30,000 acres a couple years ago. It was in the newspaper a while back. *I don't know how to solve this, but perhaps if the OHV management meetings were reinstated with BLM, as in the past when we were working on seamless management planningquestions could be asked at those meetings. Remember whenATR, Sandee and ASA 4WD met with BLM managers on a monthly basis? Start doing it again?*

UPDATE 2/18/10 AZOHVC work with County Parks and BLM may allow us at the table when this planning starts, will need public (ie OHVers) that are

interested I n the area to actually take the time to attend scoping meetings.....*you don't show.... you lose!*

8. **2009 Maricopa County parks has a new director.** RJ Cardin is open to using county parks to manage some OHV use. BLM might be interested in joining trails to county parks. County parks could take over management of the MM4 area. *Idea is to approach Amy Racki/ ASP about getting state parks and Maricopa county parks involved with state lands.* **UPDATE:** BLM continues to meet with Maricopa county parks about a cooperative management agreement in the Vulture Mtns. This is the area between the Hassayampa River and Vulture Mine Rd. Neat jeep roads and washes – no single track for dirt bikes, though. Lots of horse trails in the north part of the area, but localized to Rancho de los Caballeros. Who knows what's being committed. The planning will have to go public at some point. *One possible way to salvage OHV trails/use is to have the county do something big for us in this area as well. Meeting with RJ Cardin on this is one possibility. This whole area is inside Area A, but BLM owns all the land and fugitive dust will only be a problem at the edges. The feds will not push the county to build an OHV parkthat's our place.*

UPDATE 2/18/10 AZOHVC and ATR have meet with RJ Cardin and have presented plans and maps on 3 possible OHV/AZOHVC / BLM/ County parks collaborative OHV /multiuse projects. Vulture Mountain area, Buckeye Hills Area, Table Mesa Area. All would be part of the BLM over arching EA. To date, the hang up for County moving forward with us and applying for OHV grants to start the Buckeye hills project is ...the BLM.....they refuse to accept OHV use in adjacent Lands to the County park. Sad that BLM would turn down over \$200,000 and county operated facilities for BLM.....will keep trying. Also the Vulture project is waiting for the BLM planning to be finalized for a decision...stay tuned.

9. **2009** OHV use is always getting pushed to the back of the bus because of apathy. We need to become proactive in breaking the 'Hell's Angel" stereotype. Remember "You meet the nicest people on a Honda" ads? Advertise ourselves, PSAs? **Things to do**, we need science that proves OHV is sustainable and acceptable to wildlife. Partnering with ASU is possible. Shimano did just that with ASU to study the physical impact of Mtn biking. Find Dr. Robin Silvers at ASU to discuss it.

Our work at the Boulders rehabbing damaged areas has shown just how fast (less than 1 year) areas can be returned to natural conditions.



Old parking areas, re-contoured



10 months later, reseeded and replant cholla

UPDATE 2/18/10 BLM Assistance Agreement is doing great, have completed repairs and water controls to 26 miles of OHV routes at the popular Boulders OHV area,

include culverts and signage.....had only one section damaged by Jan 100 year flood /rains. Work counts as mitigation for dust with County.....purchase additional native seed to replant mining areas and old closed routes. Project will continue to the Table Mesa area next. Help me keep OHV areas open.....Stay on the trails!

10. **2009 Solar applications are increasing at BLM ,ASLD and Private lands.**

The number of solar farm applications is growing rapidly and bottling up land along the I10 corridor and the Hwy 74 corridor from Wickenburg and others. Solar is a great way to save energy but it costs in land and loss of trails to all , not just OHV. Dust from even critters that live in area can cause a substantial drop in panel efficiency..... not to mention they just don't fit the desert landscape.....can you say red tile roofs? Similar visual effect here.....

I have heard the number of applications could be as high as 30 applications so far. They range in size from 160acres (1) to 224,000acres(1). Most are in the 5-8k acres range. These areas will be totally fenced and off limits to the public due to the expense and sensitivity of the equipment. Say bye-bye to long vistas. This could be simply a land rush similar to mining claims to lock out competition. It's hard to say. The application fee is \$25,000, though, so it's not cheap like a mining claim. *The first APS plant in Gila Bend will be on private land (I think it's called Solaris). I Don't think that Wilderness lands will be on the block for this type of "farm".....it will initially catch graded or tilled farm land (easier to install equipment on flat land) and will , my guess, start taking or competing with developers for suitable other sites. This will affect us all (recreation and just the " view" of Az in general).....hope our legislators will listen!*

UPDATE 2/18/10 The solar power issue is growing , thousands of acres have already been applied for and the fence it in problem will affect every one , hiker ,biker and OHValong with fragmenting critter corridors. Plus the amount of water used to clean the mirrors is going to become a real issue as we continue with our drought and someone will have to decide on drinking water versus electricity..... Don't take our limited access and long distance trail system away , think before allowing these "farms" to be place anywhere!

Soap Box time: 2009

I think that solar is great, but it should be done on private land where it competes with housing development and has little impact on recreation. Drilling in the Artic wilderness sound familiar? We lose enough land to industry and commercial now.....

Solar applications continue to stack up. The applications lay across the land, covering roads, blocking access and generally messing up the landscape. Wilderness characteristics could become a good friend of everyone who loves open space, even us. A big issue could be that foreign companies are the ones trying to tie up the public lands with the alt energy leases. Then, we'll be letting foreign countries sell us clean energy as well as oil. Trade one master for another?... *OHVs could come out with a statement supporting clean energy, but without unnecessarily tying up public lands. I would envision the statement*

going to politicians. Maybe the Conservation folks would agree with us? Then we might get McCain's ear?

This is one reason AZOHVC might consider joining with the Sonoran Institute to protect the lands around Phoenix.

- 11) 2009 The Prescott NF will release a public motor vehicle map Very soon or it maybe out by the time you read this!.
Dirt Bikers!!! Please make sure that the following singletrack trails are included as motorized routes:

Tip Top trail 234 -(leaves from Milk Ranch and goes to Horsethief Basin on the west edge of Castle Creek Wilderness. Talk with Don Hood or Chris Plumb or Phil Teisl about the features of this trail. It's the most remote singletrack in the Bradshaws. *If the PNF sites private land trespass as a concern, tell them that BLM plans to connect to this trail and that the AZOHVC will work as a third party to acquire access across the private parcel (close to 80 acres I think). The PNF needs to move this south end of the trail to the west side of the creek(as an action in the plan mitigation). When they installed the range fence at the forest boundary, they put the gate on the east side of the creek. The wilderness boundary is either the centerline of the creek, or the eastern boundary.*

Lane Trail 233- This trail goes from Horsethief basin to the Crown King Trail. It's an extreme singletrack (downhill only) and it needs a lot of work to correct erosion. The AWC will be trying to get motorcycle use off of these old pack trails. They have said so in the past. *This trail could be a bypass for ATVs/MCs for the current Crown King Trail (711 and 192 roads).AZOHVC can write a grant or work with Agencies to repair erosion damage from years of neglect.*

711 Trail to Crown King /Senators Hwy: PNF officials say FS engineer staff have drafted a memo recommending closure of Forest Road 711 due to poor condition, possibly downgrading it to a trail. *Not sure what it means right now, but will give an update later. Sounds like an intervention by organized OHV may be necessary including signage about the condition and discouraging novice riders/drivers.*

Speaking of the Prescott Forest.....the following trails have been repaired or are new construction that the AZOHVC/ATR has done in the last 3 years on the Prescott. It is 60 / 40 motorized, non motorized trail work mix.....the last trail built was the 622 Almosta trail horse, hike and bike route in the Mint wash/Jerome Canyon area.

Trails repaired or constructed 85.6 miles:

Trail 346 Granite Basin Non Motorized	0.5 miles
Trail 347 Granite Basin Non Motorized	7 miles
Trail 348 Granite Basin Non Motorized	0.6 miles
Trail 351 Granite Basin Non Motorized	1.5 miles
Trail 332 Near Willow Admin Site	0.5 miles new
Trail 400 Ranch trail near American Ranch Subdivision	0.4 miles New

Trail 326 Granite Basin Non Motorized	2.0 miles
Trail 387 Rancho Vista Non Motorized	1 mile
Trail 391 Copper Basin area Non motorized	1 mile
Trail 13 Motorized	2.0 miles
Trail 22 Motorized	1 miles
Trail 384 Wolf Creek area Non Motorized	1.0 miles
Trail 9926	4 miles
Trail 619 Alto Pit to Box Culvert / RR grade Multiuse	1.8 miles new
Trail 620 Alto to Contreas Rd multiuse	3.5 miles new
Trail 9941 multiuse Spyder Ranch area /Anderson field	2.0 miles
Trail 65a From 705 to 9941 Multiuse	1.0 miles
Trail 284 Yankee Doodle multiuse	5.0 miles
Trail 285 Dandrea Multiuse	0.5 miles
Trail 1 Alto Pit motorized	1.5 miles
Trail 16 Alto Pit Motorized	0.3 miles
Trail 110 Mingus Mtn Non Motorized	2.5 miles
Trail 111 Mingus Mtn Non Motorized	1.8 miles
Trail 501 Mingus Mtn Non Motorized	1.1 miles
Trail 533 Mingus Mtn Non Motorized	2.0 miles
Trail 530 Mingus Mtn Non Motorized	1.0 miles
Trail 671 to wash from Tonto rd multiuse	2.7 miles
Trail 671 from wash to N. Private prop. Non motorized	3.0 miles
Trail 299 Water Shed multiuse	3.1 miles
Trail 260 East Copper multiuse	3.6 miles
Trail 621 Contras to trail 42 multiuse	3.0 miles new
Trail 43 to RR crossing multiuse	1.6 miles
Trail 511 Box T multiuse	11 miles
Trail 521 Royal Canyon multiuse	2.6 miles
Alto Tot Lot trails and gate	.5 miles new
Trail 22 Campwood multiuse	2.0 miles
Trail 13 Campwood multiuse	2.0 miles
Trail 10 Campwood multiuse	1.5 miles
Trail 622 Almosta Trail non motorized	5.5 miles new

Repairs include but not limited to, erosion controls, reroutes , tread reconstruction, bridges, culverts, cattle guards to replace gates and alwaysfresh signage.

UPDATE 2/18/10 All Projects are on hold from mid 2009 to near future. Our Volunteer agreements are in question as to our operating heavy trail equipment. Our Final MVUM maps submitted in late dec of 2009 had over 100 miles of missing RATM routes alone.

I am back to personal opinion outweighing Agency policy, New district ranger should be on board in mid 2010.

Also in 2010 Feb.....The Stewartship groups that Prescott FS formed after two years of Visioning meetings to see how the public wants the Prescott Runare now meeting. These groups will help FS decide what we want to do on the FS...ride a dirt bike or hike a trail.....both or only hike? Latest Non motorized group meeting last

week on the Feb.25th , the PNF stewardship non motorized group topic was, no new **MOTORIZED** trails on the Prescott.

There reason, motorized has only 20% of the users on the FS but have 90 % of the trails. They did not want us to have any new trails ever.....again. **(There numbers not mine.)** Back Country horsemen, AZOHVC partner on Prescott Non Motorized trail work, argued that AZOHVC partners with them and that AZOHVC build trails for both groups, That Jeff Gursh explained to them that dead end trails and no loop trail opportunities make for big problems.....her idea which was excepted, was PNF could not spend FS dollars to build new motorized trails.....only outside dollars could build these trails..... if we had no say at this meetingthe group would have worked to kill all new moto trailssomeone listens to me and in this case it was the horse folks. **THIS IS WHY** you partner with all user groups on public lands, more people to support each others needs!

Jeffs Thoughts on this:

Look at it this way, non motorized users have wilderness trails where no motorized can operate(bicycles either), non motorized have all the signed non motorized trails that no motorized vehicles can use.....

Plus in 98% of the cases, non motorized have access to all the Motorized routes on the PNF....exceptions examples are: Alto Pit OHV area internal trails and Hayfield draw, some Paved roads (level 4/5).

NOW, Add the fact that non motorized can go **CROSS COUNTRY**.....that gives non motorized the use of the entire forest.....there is no bias towards motorized use when it comes to the number of miles of trail available to each group.

There is bias when it comes to looking at resource damage....there is an impact from any use on the land..all users leave their mark.....better managementnot closure.....will best protect the forest for future recreation.

12) 2009 Petition to list the Sonoran Desert Tortoise on the Endangered Species list.

Of course this will greatly affect where and if you get to ride.....The Wester Watershed folks is working on a petition to get the Desert Tortoise listed.....you can bet that OHV will be banned from areas where we are perceived to harm or disturb this native of Arizona.

Check out the petition at;

<http://www.westernwatersheds.org/species/desert-tortoise/sonoran/sonoran-tortoise-petition.pdf>

Side note here:

Game and Fish did a study (Tech Report #38) that looked at and monitored Tortoise areas in AZ.....2 of the areas studied showed that the population of tortoise were stable or growing.....one of the areas is the FS Sugarloaf Mountain area where OHV use is very popular and has been growing as well as the tortoise population in this area.

But what I found to be interesting was the comments on what was a danger to the Tortoise populations, Mountain Lions , Dogs/feral dogs and it also seems hikers/

non motorized were a big “reducer” of the tortoise. The Game and Fish statement “Naturally occurring populations of tortoise have essentially disappeared from the Mountain Preserves in the Phoenix Valley and the development along the outskirts of metropolitan Phoenix and Tucson continues to encroach upon tortoise habitat”.sure looks like non motorized is a big issue. This just makes it hard for me to believe that OHV should be shut out of existing trails in tortoise areas. Game and Fish also concluded that the drought AZ has been experiencing for the past Decade has affected some of the population in the most hard hit areas of our state, while in other sections Tortoise are thriving.....

My thoughts:Arizona has done well with our Tortoise populations with the seasonal closures and current protection policies

Nature can sometimes be a cruel mistressStricter laws will not stop the drought or eliminate the mountain lion and dog problems nor the problems with shell disease and URTD.

I also don't see Cities closing preserves of urban trails to protect the tortoise as the people population grows.

Lets stick to what has worked here.....a new inflexible “blanket” law will only make it harder to protect this little guy. Lets pass on the listing.....

UPDATE 2/18/10 This is still pending issue and will as mentioned above be a big issue for OHV use and may other recreations if passed.

13) Corp of Engineers is holding public scoping meetings in Surprise on June 25th 2009.

From the National Register,<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-12388.pdf>
The COE is preparing an EIS (not just an EA)this usually means something BIG is going on.....so this could be Big for the McMicken Dam area by the White Tank Mountains.

The announcement says they are going to consider recreation. They WONT consider OHV unless we bring it up at the Scoping!

I am writing a letter from AZOHVC but it sure would be nice to get someone who lives in the area to go to the meeting.....wont make much difference if Buckeye closes the White Tanks to all OHV though.....

UPDATE2/18/10 never got anything back or any notice that our comments were received.....have not had time to follow up on this one.

14) The OHV sticker program 2009

Well, the OHV sticker program is up and running (see last update) and we are slowly working out the bugs that were inevitable in this type of, new to our State, program.

One of the places we are seeing problems is at the MVD offices..... not with the MVD folks.....but with the OHV community.....ie you and me.

When MVD asks us to pick how we will use our OHV's, you have 3 choices:

- 1) Exclusively Off-Highway
- 2) Primarily Off-highway
- 3) Primarily On-highway

The MVD folks are not going to tell you what you do with you OHV , you have to know this for your self. This is new to all us regular folks so it can be confusing and we may not pick the best option the first time around.

So the nice folks over at Ride Now and the APIA dealers assoc. have written up a paragraph for each of the above choices and made it a whole lot easier to make your decision. See below!

Please choose the option that best describes how you intend to use your OHV, understanding that if your usage changes, you may be required to “upgrade” your registration and vehicle requirements to stay legal. Once you have selected and obtained registration, you can always choose to change the status at www.servicearizona.com.

Exclusively Off-Highway (trails only! Nowhere that requires street plates, jeff)

I will EXCLUSIVELY be using my OHV on designated off-road trails and riding areas, such as BLM land, State Parks and National Forest, State Trust land (separate permit required), or private property, such as personal acreage or organized, permitted, and approved facilities like race tracks and areas under permit.

I WILL NOT be using my OHV on any public or improved (paved) roads, or maintained roads, even dirt ones.

Primarily Off-Highway (Mostly Trails! But will ride some street legal routes to access connecting trails,..... best option for the buck folks, jeff)

I will PRIMARILY be using my OHV on designated off-road trails and riding areas, such as BLM land, State Parks and National Forest, State Trust land (separate permit required), or private property, such as personal acreage or organized, permitted, and approved facilities like race tracks and areas under permit.

I will OCCASIONALLY be using my OHV on public or improved (paved) roads, or maintained roads, even dirt ones and understand I will be responsible to meet all applicable safety and equipment requirements of Arizona Revised Statutes Title 28, Chapter 3, Article 16, and that the equipment is in proper working condition and adjustment. Most commonly, the OHV would be required to have a mirror, a lit license plate location visible from the rear, a running light, a brake light, an electric horn, possible emissions testing, and a properly licensed and insured operator. This is only a partial list of the most common items required; please check with your local DMV and city police for local requirements and/or a complete list of the required items.

Primarily On-Highway (rarely will be on an OHV trail, will be on pavement or street legal routes 99% of the time! Pay full VLT tags price. Jeff)

I will OCCASIONALLY be using my OHV on designated off-road trails and riding areas, such as BLM land, State Parks and National Forest, State Trust land (separate permit required), or private property, such as personal acreage or organized, permitted, and approved facilities like race tracks and areas under permit.

I will PRIMARILY be using my OHV on public or improved (paved) roads, or maintained roads, even dirt ones and understand I will be responsible to meet all applicable safety and equipment requirements of Arizona Revised Statutes Title 28,

Chapter 3, Article 16, and that the equipment is in proper working condition and adjustment. Most commonly, the OHV would be required to have a mirror, a lit license plate location visible from the rear, a running light, a brake light, an electric horn, possible emissions testing, and a properly licensed and insured operator. This is only a partial list of the most common items required; please check with your local DMV and city police for local requirements and/or a complete list of the required items.

That should covers the different options problems we are seeing at MVD. I recently met with the MVD and legislative representatives on this issue and others related to the OHV sticker program and we worked out some of the MVD funding problems and also talked about the registration and titling problems. As I have said before, the registration part of the program is NOT newyou have always had to have the MSO or a bill of sale or a title to get the RV plate.....it's just no one enforced it!

MVD has been kind enough to help us by setting up a "task force" of folks to help with the registration problem. I have been bombed by folks looking for ways to get legal and wellMVD is willing to help you out. The Trials Bike guys are currently working with me and MVD to get many of the Sherco, KTM, Gas Gas and others registered but you must be willing to help.....yes , in some cases you may need a bonded title (if you have no records such as MSO , Bill of sale or tile from another state) Bonded titles can cost a lot or a little , there is no set price for them.....so shop around , a 5000 dollar bike can cost \$500 or as little as \$80 to get the bond.....its up to you

Another choice is a independent Title service.....yes it will cost a little more ,but what's your time worth?

Try: FooteWork 928-771-9015 or 928-759-8575there in the Prescott area and have done some amazing saves!

Also, for those of you who did the street legal registration before you registered for the OHV sticker (and would have paid \$3.00 to be street legal)you CAN now get a refund on that mistake, Contact Jackie Algood at MVD and she will make sure you get the refund. This was not the case earlier inthe year!

UPDATE 2/18/10 OHV Decal program is slow.....less than 25% of the owners have purchased the Decal. We had hoped for 40 to 50 % but that is not happening so far. The problem: **First** , The economy! Currently law enforcement reports show a 80% compliance in the Field, but only 25% of registered OHVs have the Decal. The Cost to buy one is just not in a lot of OHV's budgets nor is riding them. Those that are out , have the Decal.

Second there just is no way to reach the public that does not belong to AMA or a organized club with the need to buy this Decal. We need PSA and main stream media to stop complaining about OHV and print the Above stuff for the public to get on board. Game And Fish will soon start a ad campaign on bill boards "STICK IT OR TICKET" For the OHV registration.....if you get caught , its \$250 for no decal and \$250 no plate to start, have heard of over \$1000 in fines for some

Third problem.....where did the money go? Currently , only Game and Fish and State Land Department have received OHV monies.....what happened to the rest??

A hold was put on all the Decal Monies that would go to trails and such.....that has changed this month with AZOHVC and Rep Weiers having saved our Decal Dollars

From two separate sweeps at the Capitol. Dollars will be awarded in May 2010 for OHV on the ground projects!

So, please , get those decals and plates on your machinesavoid the fine and help keep OHV areas open.

Just a little complaining now from..... ME. 2009

I try very hard to keep you all informed and still work on the trails , write the grants , solve the OHV sticker problems , fund a lobbyist , work at the capitol with the lobbyist, make comments on FS and BLM planning , install signs , repair fences , replace stolen steel from gates and way too much more.

When I get calls and emails from fellow OHVers asking for help to save their favorite riding area or help them comment on OHV agency planning, no problem , happy to help!

When people demand I fix things, blame me for the OHV worlds problems and then complain that I am some how stealing dollars from folks to pay for a lobbyist / attorney that is not needed and why would they give dollars to help a Coalition that only helps ATVs and Dirt bikes.....

I figure there is limited dollars to work on trails..... so ,I work on the ones that benefit the majority of OHVers first.....that would be Jeep roads and routes and staging areas everyone uses.....once we have the popular routes and areas repaired, work on the next most popular and used routes ATV (50inch) stuff.....finally hit the hardest to work on because of the size(width) ...dirt bike trails.

I am constantly harpooned for not considering the 4x4 crowd....and that simply is not the case. I am also told that the OHV sticker program only benefits the ATV and MC folksNOT true!

Everyone will use the staging areas, everyone will use the maps, everyone will benefit from dust treated access roadssame with trail work.....

I would also like to say this, I am all for you spending your dollars on and for things you think will make a difference.....that's what I do. ***But and there is always a but with me isn't there?*** ,

If you put your dollars with lets say a National organization that will save your OHV opportunities..... DON'T call me and demand I save your riding areas.....call the guys you spent your hard earned money supporting.

It is not fair to expect us local clubs and organizations to solve the local issues with no support from you.....that means your dollars, not all of them but a couple.....

The National organizations have a hard enough time taking care of the NATIONAL issues, the local stuff most often will have to wait or have local folks take care of it.

Don't get me wrong (I am sure some will), I support with my dollars, national groups too...but I split my limited dollars with local and national groups because no one can do it all.....especially me.

Want to know more? See Jeff's Work week for weekly OHV related stuff and on going projectsits boring but a good read on OHV use in AZ.

See the spread sheet on this years Legislative Bills that affect OHV use in AZ and why we really do need to keep the Lobbyist /law firm as part of the Coalition.

UPDATE 2/18/10 Well the same still applies from above, I still get hundreds of emails and calls for help getting your OHV registered, your favorite trail open or answer questions on where to ride , what to do if you are from out of state and how to partner with you land agency.....what to see how we help? Talk to the Hard Rock trials guys on how we helped them get their Bikes registered.....
and new this year some folks feel I am some how misusing OHV grant dollars.....I can tell you this: until May of 2010 , when the first OHV grant dollars will be giving out, NO ONE has received DECAL DOLLARS for OHV projects.....hard to spend what is not available to spend!

Things you need to do as the OHV public.....GET INVOLVED!!!! DON'T expect someone else is looking at keeping your trails open! If you get an email or a call to comment on your favorite riding area.....**DO IT!** See something posted on your favorite trails? Take a picture and send it to Arizona Trail Riders website or AZOHVC site.....we cant be everywhere!

Land Agencies don't want to tick off any big groups of users so the more who ask for trailsOHV trailsthe better!

Thanks for your time and support!
Jeff Gursh ATR and AZOHVC

2/2010

There is much more going in our State , this is just the high points.