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NRC South - June 2018 BOD Meeting Report

Forest Service - Our national forests and grasslands — 193 million acres throughout the United States — are a national treasure intended for use by everyone. But a new study by San Francisco State University Professor of Recreation, Parks & Tourism Nina Roberts and the U.S. Forest Service finds that many ethnic minorities are not using or enjoying these places.

The researchers compared U.S. Census data on minorities living within 50 miles of a national forest boundary within the contiguous United States with the percentage of visitors to those national forests who are people of color. They found that although 35.5 percent of the people living within 50 miles of a national forest are racial and ethnic minorities, those minorities represent only 11.7 percent of national forest visitors each year, on average. Even in Forest Service regions surrounded by highly diverse populations, the results were the same.

This finding is not new. Previous research has noted that ethnic minorities are part of a growing user base for public lands with Hispanic users the fastest growing category.

Climate change vulnerability and adaptation in the Intermountain Region: The Intermountain Adaptation Partnership (IAP) identified climate change issues relevant to resource management on Federal lands in Nevada, Utah, southern Idaho, eastern California, and western Wyoming, and developed solutions intended to minimize negative effects of climate change and facilitate transition of diverse ecosystems to a warmer climate. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service scientists, Federal resource managers, and stakeholders collaborated over a 2-year period to conduct a state-of-science climate change vulnerability assessment and develop adaptation options for Federal lands. The vulnerability assessment emphasized key resource areas - water, fisheries, vegetation and disturbance, wildlife, recreation, infrastructure, cultural heritage, and ecosystem services - regarded as the most important for ecosystems and human communities.

The earliest and most profound effects of climate change are expected for water re-

sources, the result of declining snowpacks causing higher peak winter streamflows, lower summer flows, and higher stream temperatures. These changes will in turn reduce fish habitat for cold-water fish species, negatively affect riparian vegetation and wildlife, damage roads and other infrastructure, and reduce reliable water supplies for communities. Increased frequency and magnitude of disturbances (drought, insect outbreaks, wildfire) will reduce the area of mature forest, affect wildlife populations (some positively, some negatively), damage infrastructure and cultural resources, degrade the quality of municipal water supplies, and reduce carbon sequestration. Climate change effects on recreation, a major economic driver in the IAP region, will be positive for warm-weather activities and negative for snow-based activities. IAP participants developed adaptation options that can be implemented in planning, project management, monitoring, and restoration as climate-smart responses to altered resource conditions.

BLM - the Bureau of Land Management is taking steps to reduce the risk of fire on public lands with Stage 1 fire restrictions and temporary target shooting limitations.

Starting June 1, the Bureau of Land Management will ban the use of fireworks, target shooting with exploding targets and firing of a tracer or flammable device on all BLM-managed public lands.

This ban is expected to become wider as the summer progresses.

Special Recreation Permits: Recreationalists will now be able to easily attain electronic recreation permits and annual passes for Lake Havasu shoreline sites, making access to public lands more convenient.

The permits and passes will be available for purchase through the digital marketplace, YourPassNow. This innovation is made possible through a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management and NIC Inc., a digital government services provider.

This digital service will greatly improve the convenience of visiting your shoreline sites for our visitors and streamline our internal BLM fee collection process. We are excited to pilot this service for the BLM and hope to continue to enhance the visitor experience on public lands.

Once purchased, passes and permits can be downloaded or stored to a virtual wallet for immediate and future use. Passes and permits are also emailed for those that want to print their pass.

OHMVR - The OHMVR Division is proposing revisions to the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program regulations. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will be published by the Office of Administrative Law on April 20, 2018. A copy of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, text of the proposed Regulations, the proposed Documents Incorporated by Reference and the Initial Statement of Reasons, are attached for your convenience.

The public comment period on the proposed revisions will be open April 20th through June 4, 2018. Any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, may submit written comments relative to the proposed rulemaking. Please review the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for instructions on submitting your comments.

The OHMVR Division will host two public hearings to receive comments on the proposed regulations:

— June 5, 2018, 3:00pm in Bakersfield, California at Kern County Public Services Building 2700 M Street.

— June 7, 2018, 3:00pm in Sacramento, California at the OHMVR Headquarters.

The biggest change I see is the requirement that makes it more difficult for 501(c)3 organizations to apply and qualify for grants. This may impact some Cal4 and other OHV groups. However, there have been abuses of the program from non-OHV groups that will be stopped by the proposed changes.

IRS incorporation —

This link is a brief description of what incorporation status means:

<http://www.4x4voice.com/Notebook/club-business/index.html?19>

The basic incorporation paper work registers the Foundation as a corporate entity with the California Secretary of State. The next step is to submit an application to the Internal Revenue Service for the 501(c)3 Letter of Determination. That letter acknowledges that the applying incorporated entity has a mission statement within the By-Laws of the organization that defines its charity intent.

There are a number of laws, rules and regulations that provide guidance for how an authorized 501(c)3 is to conduct daily operations.

The above link provides general guidance.

It is common for organizations to partner to accomplish related goals. The only issue with the Foundation partnering with an organization is determining if the prospective partner is a valid organization under the California Secretary of State registration. If they have an IRS Letter of Determination, that is good; but not required. They do need to be an organization in good standing with the SoS.

Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) could have an impact on OHV recreation. AB 617 provides a new community-focused action framework to improve air quality and reduce exposure to criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants in communities most impacted by air pollution. The bill recognizes that while California has seen tremendous improvement in air quality, some communities still suffer greater impacts than others. It is these communities that require special attention and accelerated action. AB 617 builds on the foundation of existing air quality legislation and programs, providing additional tools to target actions in communities that bear the greatest burdens.

This first-of-its-kind statewide effort established by AB 617 includes community air monitoring and local emissions reduction programs. In addition, the Legislature has appropriated immediate incentive funding to clean up mobile sources such as trucks and buses in impacted communities, as well as grants to support community participation in the AB 617 process. AB 617 also includes new requirements for accelerated retrofit of pollution controls on industrial sources, increased penalty fees, and greater transparency and availability of air quality and emissions data that will help advance air pollution control efforts throughout the State. This new authority enhances and strengthens existing clean air programs, and improves our ability to achieve equity in the delivery of clean air benefits to all Californians.

In September CARB will be adopting the first communities for community emission reduction programs. Once identified, CARB and air districts will work together to identify all the sources impacting the community and develop strategies/measures to reduce emissions. If a community selected is near an OHV riding area, then I would expect that the emissions from that riding area would be addressed in the district's proposed plan.

Currently, no list of communities that may be selected in 2018 or subsequent years exists. At this point CalEnviroScreen (<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>) is being used to help determine potential disadvantaged communities burdened by air pollution. The included the link to the CalEnviroScreen map to help you identify riding areas that may be impacting local communities.

It may be useful to begin thinking of how you could reduce emissions or conduct air quality monitoring at existing riding areas closest to communities of interest. The timelines for community emission reduction programs are extremely rapid, and it may be beneficial to begin considering ways to reduce localized impacts. I expect that as new development is built closer to existing recreational areas (such as the new project in Folsom near Prairie City SVRA), conflicts will arise.

Red Stickers — Within the OHV registration system is the term “red-stickers”. These are applied to motorcycles that are two-stroke engines and there is a special “season of use” attached. That is about to change. CARB is expected to eliminate the “red-sticker” requirement for the two-stroke engines. BUT, the devil is in the details of the pending new regulations which are expected late fall of 2018.