



*Arizona State Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs*  
P.O. Box 23904  
Tempe, Arizona 85282

### **Arizona State Association of 4 Wheel Drive Annual NAMRC Report for 2018**

The Arizona State Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs (ASA4WDC) has survived another year. Membership seems to be down a bit due to internet and meet up clubs.

The ASA4WDC is continuing work on the grant that was written last year through the Arizona State Parks OHV Program. The progress that has been made has been very good. The ability to be able to get out and talk to people has been invaluable. Unfortunately, like most government agencies they do not see the benefit and have not allowed an extension. The program was difficult to get off the ground because it was something completely different and not tried before.

Government seems to be another of our big challenges. They never see the benefit of working with the actual user groups.

The ASA4WDC is continuing to work with the Tucson Rough Riders and a single-track association, Trail Riders of Arizona, on the ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Coronado Forest Service (FS). This has turned into a very good partnership, and we are in the process of writing a grant for a trail repair project in southern Arizona.

The ASA4WDC approved allowing UTV users into the association. The problem is that the larger groups do not want to spend the money and do not see the benefit of joining a larger group.

Issues that still affect us in our area of the country is access. This has been made even more difficult with other agencies wanting to get their hands on the monies that come into the OHV fund. This money is to be used for OHV grants, but other agencies see it as a way to line their own pockets. The ASA4WDC has a lobbyist to help us with these issues. The problem is the OHV community does not see the benefit and won't help with the costs.

Last year our lobbyist was able to save the entire OHV fund from a state sweep to pay for the teachers raises that the Governor gave them.

This year problems facing us are just as bad if not worse. This year's issues include:

- The governor decided he wants to a \$25 fee to every licensed vehicle, trailer and OHV to pay for the teachers raises
- Each county is looking at adding \$100 to the OHV sticker fund to pay for OHV damage on their lands. The sticker now costs \$25. So that would raise each sticker from \$25 to \$150.
- Arizona State Land Department had decided that the 5% they receive from OHV monies is not enough and now want 50% or they will close down access for OHV across state land. Almost every trail we have crosses or goes through state land.



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- These issues are extremely important, but no one wants to help us. They all feel that it isn't important
- Another large issue is other groups spreading fake news and degrading those of us how have worked very hard to keep our recreation open.

The National Forests and BLM districts in Arizona are continuing their planning and travel management plans. Our organization has tried to participate in all of them. We have lost many roads due to the latest planning processes and the agencies don't seem interested in anything that the OHV community recommends.

The ASA4WDC's membership is still an issue and we have yet to figure out how to get the online OHV groups to join. It seems to take much more time to find members and clubs that understand why they should band together. It seems that if it isn't on social media then it isn't worthwhile. The trend lately seems to be "Meet Ups" and not belonging to organized groups. Bringing in new members and new clubs is becoming harder and harder.

These social media clubs have also caused us some problems with road maintenance, damage and events. Some of these clubs just have events without going through any of the requirements or following regulations.

Membership retention is an ongoing process that doesn't seem to have a good answer on how to retain or add new members. The same question keeps coming up, what does the ASA4WDC do for them and why should they belong. It is an age-old question that just continues, and it must be answered again and again. We drop our budgets more and more and try to do as much as we can for no charge, but our members just don't see the advantages of belonging to an organization and would rather spend their money on parties and other club activities only.

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other groups to post events.