



www.n4wda.org

Nevada Four Wheel Drive Association

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Report for 2018 NAMRC Meeting – 10/29

Washoe County Lands Bill:

Much of the past year was spent working in a coalition, Public Lands Access Network – High Desert Coalition (PLAN-HDC) in opposition to the proposed Washoe County Lands Bill. The groups that we work with in this coalition include the Nevada Farm Bureau, Nevada Cattlemen’s Association, Nevada Minerals Exploration Council, Nevada Department of Wildlife and other affected stakeholders. By agreement between the many OHV organizations, N4WDA was designated to speak for OHV recreation.

This Bill, as initially proposed would create an additional 700,000 acres of Wilderness in addition to the existing Wilderness areas in Northern Washoe County. Grazing, both cattle and sheep would be greatly affected with the uncertainty of the continuation of grazing permits driving the value of the affected ranches down. Although the proposed “W” was created, for the most part from existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), the BLM has not managed the lands as Wilderness as required by the Federal Land Planning and Management Act (FLPMA) and there are hundreds of roads and trails that have been established within the proposed “W” areas, therefore affecting OHV recreation and hunting.

Currently, after several meetings with Washoe County, one US Senator and the Congressman for the area, we have reduced the “W” acreage to about 175,000 acres and the creation of National Conservation Areas to protect wildlife and Sage Grouse critical habitat on a piece-by-piece basis. OHV recreation and hunting will be enhanced because the remaining WSAs within Washoe County (365,000 acres) will be released.

However, the Bill goes on and on. Currently, both the environmentalist and user sides oppose the bill as it stands, the environmentalists because there is too little “W” and the users because there is still too much “W”. Only time will tell...

Silver State Poker Run:

We held our 3rd Silver State Poker Run on September 15th in the Dayton, NV, area and had about 40 rigs (double that of last year) split evenly between Jeeps & trucks and UTVs & ATVs. We have found that, for this event, mixing all types of 4x4 vehicles is not a problem. We provided a simple hamburgers & hot dogs meal and had a super raffle. The feedback is that everyone enjoyed the event and it will grow again next year, although we will probably put in place a limit of 50 vehicles.

Membership:

Association membership continues to grow, although at a much slower rate than we would expect in a state where over 85% of the land is public land. Our biggest gain is from the Off Road Expo at the Reno/Sparks Convention Center in March. This is a three-day show and we have our membership booth in donated space. It's a lot of fun working the show, talking to folks as they pass by our booth. In Nevada, virtually everyone owns a 4x4 vehicle of some kind and they listen when you tell them that the public lands remain under attack and that N4WDA is their eyes, ears and voice when the BLM, USFS and military areas put out their NEPA documents.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Calkins