



On The Trail

April 2010 Edition

www.OffRoadRiders.org

The Mission of the Off-Road Riders is to Represent, Educate and Empower the Black Hills Off-Road Community and to partner with regional and national Off-Road Advocacy Groups who share our goals.

The Off-Road Riders Association (ORA) is a Grassroots, Not-for-Profit Organization 1000 members strong and growing.

We encourage safe riding practices and cooperation with other motorized and non-motorized users of the forest. While the majority of ORA members ride ATVs, Dirt Bikes and UTVs, our organization supports the entire off-road motorized community.

From the Editor



Director, Ross Brown

Greetings fellow riders,

Hopefully by now most of you have heard about the Black Hills National Forest's Planning Rule meeting. Those of you who have seen

the announcements in the press or receive your ORA updates and announcements electronically should be prepared to attend this meeting. If you live outside the Black Hills or learned about it too late to attend, stay tuned for an update online or in our next newsletter.

The scope of this meeting reaches far beyond the travel management process and will have far-reaching implications for users of the public lands. Please remain vigilant, stay involved and continue to educate yourselves and those around you.

I look forward to seeing you at the Forest Service meeting on Wednesday and again at our April meeting this Thursday.

—Ross Brown



Forest Service meeting to be held Wednesday April 21, 2010

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USFS PLANNING RULE MEETINGS ANNOUNCED FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

This Wednesday, April 21 (5-6 Open House, 6-9 Meeting) the Forest Service is holding a roundtable meeting in Rapid City at the Ramkota Hotel. I encourage you all to attend and take part in this meeting.

This planning process will dramatically affect how the Forest Service plans and manages into the future—here and across the National Forest System. I attended the Science Forums and took part in the first national Roundtable in Washington DC a couple of weeks ago. BRC and other national groups will continue to be in attendance to the remaining national Roundtables to be sure the voice of recreation is heard. I am very concerned for several reasons, not the least of which is that recreation was left completely off their original Notice of Intent with this planning. Your participation at these local and regional meetings will serve to help punctuate the importance of including recreation as one of the basic premises accounted for in the forest planning process.

BlueRibbon Coalition has a dedicated webpage on this process for more information including BRC's alerts and comments to the NOI at this link: http://www.sharetrails.org/public-lands/?section=FS_Planning_Rule There is a lot of information and links on that page including near the bottom of the page, all of our alerts, our comments to the FS Forest Planning Rule NOI and much more... kinda everything you ever wanted to know and then some.

Some basic points that I emphasized in the meetings I attended in DC are:

- 1) Fill the regulatory void with regulations that focus on the primary goals of efficiency and expediency
- 2) In the process of filling the regulatory void, don't create more gridlock in the process that prevents planning from getting to the ground
- 3) The importance of elevating recreation as one of the primary principles that forest planning needs to account for
- 4) The need and importance of providing a diverse range of recreational opportunities for the American public
- 5) Be consistent in the process, which doesn't appear to be the case in the regional and local meetings

6) The Rulemaking needs to embrace the NEPA process—hone the Purpose and Need to a razor sharp focus, clearly identify and succinctly articulate all the key planning issues, with the involvement of key stakeholders, develop a full range of alternatives that address each issue in a variety of ways

7) Is it in the best interest to cram what has historically proven to be a 4 year process into 2 years

8) Rule should advance the interests of a broad individual and ideological spectrum so it is not tilted in allocating resources toward one form of use or another

9) The importance of horizontal collaborative efforts that include cross-agency cooperation with state and local authorities as well as governing entities and elected officials at the city, county and state level

10) The core vision is valid, only its implementation need be improved. We need incremental change to existing planning frameworks, not a dramatic new vision that only threatens continuing judicial skepticism

11) Science needs to inform, not dictate the process and needs to be broadened to include social, economic and science other than just the biological/ecological science

12) By design, the planning rule needs to be broad brush in its guidance allowing forest planning to be adaptive and specific to local needs and resources

From my perspective, we need to ensure that conscious design and management for recreation is accounted for in the forest planning process, that they don't lose sight of the original vision to manage for multiple use (core vision mandated by Congress) in the process of incorporating "new" science, and that, in the end, this rule ends up being efficient and effective... gets it to the ground.

Thanks,

Greg Mumm
Executive Director
BlueRibbon Coalition



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Kids Fair: Preparation = Success

Virtually everyone who attended the March ORA meeting stayed to assemble packets for the Kids' Fair

To paraphrase an ancient wisdom: where you spend your money and your time, there your heart will be also. The Off-Road Riders Association



ORA members assemble educational packets in preparation for the 2010 YFS Kids' Fair

is a 100% volunteer organization and we so appreciate our volunteers.

At our March meeting, nearly every person stayed late to help prepare educational fun packs for the Kids' Fair. Materials like the new Multiple Use coloring book, Adventure Trail activity book and CD ROM, Tread Lightly brochures and more were packaged up in preparation for the upcoming event.

Like the past several years, Off-Road Riders shared a booth with Project Learning Tree and the Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition.

This year the Kids' Fair was moved from the civic center arena to the Rushmore Hall which allowed more space for kids and parents to visit the many booths and activities. All in all, it was a very successful event.

For the fourth year in a row, ORA director educates children at the Kids' Fair.



Off-Road Riders, Troy Hall and Patty Brown along with Multiple Use Coalition Director, Tom Troxel

Patty Brown who serves on the boards of directors of both the Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition and the Off-Road Riders Association,

spent the weekend educating hundreds—if not thousands—of children on proper OHV safety, trail courtesy and the many economic and recreational resources the Black Hills has to offer.

With the Help of our great volunteers: Brian & Spencer Lund, Jeff Kearney, Margaret Nachtigall, Ruth Frasier, Troy Hall, Tim Grosz, Ronda Bower, Connie & Cole Bertolotto, Bobbi Jo Bartels, Ellen Reddick, Ellen Tilley, Carson Engelskirger, Tom Troxel, and Ross Brown, children were asked questions like: “what is the most important piece of safety equipment to wear when riding?” “What do we get from the trees that are harvested from the Black Hills?” “What do we get from the cows that graze on the grass in the Black Hills?”, etc. Kids were then given stickers from Honda and educational activity books from BHRMUC, NOHVCC, the Beef Industry Council and more.

A banner advertisement for Black Hills Powersports. It features a blue Yamaha ATV parked on a grassy area. The text "BLACK HILLS POWERSPORTS" is written in large, stylized blue letters. Below it, the logos for Kawasaki and Yamaha are shown. A checkered flag is visible in the background. At the bottom, the text "CALL US TODAY: (605) 342-5500" is written in yellow.

**Off-Road Riders
Association**

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**Off-Road Riders
Events Schedule**

Date	Event	Location
Wednesday April 21, 2010	Forest Service Open House 5-6pm Meeting 6-9pm	Rapid City Ramkota Hotel
Thursday April 22 2010 (4th Thursday)	ORA Meeting 6:30 Dinner 7:00 Meeting	Golden Corral 1180 North Lacrosse Rapid City
Thursday May 20 2010 (3rd Thursday)	ORA Meeting 6:30 Dinner 7:00 Meeting	Golden Corral 1180 North Lacrosse Rapid City
May 26-31	Dunes Ride	St. Anthony, Idaho

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