



Protect Your Right to Ride!



NMOHVA Member Newsletter

April

2011

Upcoming Events

April 30 - NMOHVA
Meet-N-Greet in
Glenwood, NM.

See the [NMOHVA
Calendar](#) for event
details and
contacts.

Do you have an event to
share? Contact NMOHVA at
pres@nmohva.org for a
listing in the newsletter.

TRAIL PROJECT GROUNDBREAKING

NMOHVA has just celebrated a major milestone. We were finally able to hold the official groundbreaking ceremony for the trail project at Cedro Peak on Saturday, March 26th after the Annual Meeting.



Left to Right: Bob Heiar (Cibola NF), Jim Cooper (PPS), John Omalia (NMOHVA), Kerry Woods (Cibola NF), Mark Winscott (NMOHVA President).

"Wait a minute," you may ask, "Didn't NMOHVA start this project a long time ago?"

We did. NMOHVA applied for this grant in the spring of 2009 and received a federal grant to undertake this major trail project in late 2009! The project is in the **19,240 acre** Cedro Peak area, located in the Sandia Ranger District of

the Cibola National Forest. The **\$448,512.00 project** includes new trail segments, trail rehabilitation, and signing on **over 60 miles of trail**. The project also incorporates trailhead improvements, trail entry control, and public information. NMOHVA received a \$322,392.00 grant from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), a federal grant program administered by New Mexico State Parks. The balance of \$126,120.00 is coming from matching funding and volunteer labor from NMOHVA and its grant partners.

There have been some significant challenges to overcome that have slowed the initial project timetable. It has taken almost a year and half to get the paperwork ironed out. We now have our contract with the State completed and have the official 'Notice to Proceed' in hand.

Actual construction is scheduled to start May 2. A major portion of the hand labor will be performed a local Youth Conservation Corp but there is still a major amount of volunteer labor that will be needed. **Anyone interested in lending a helping hand** on the project can contact the NMOHVA Special Projects Coordinate, Joanne Spivack, at nohvcccontact1@nmohva.org.

NMOHVA's partners on the project include the Sandia Ranger District, the New Mexico 4 Wheelers, the Black Feather Trail Preservation Alliance, and R&S Powersports. Recreation planning professionals from Pan Pacific Services will help manage the project.

NMOHVA Annual Meeting/Election Wrap-Up

Your New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA) held their Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 26. President Mark Winscott welcomed the members and guests present and thanked our meeting sponsors: **Sandia BMW and Atomic Moto**. Important items completed during the meeting was a review presentation of NMOHVA's accomplishments for the past year, a wrap up from this year's legislative session, brainstorming next year's priority activities, and the election of the following Board of Director members: The next item of business was electing four members to positions on the NMOHVA Board of Directors. The results of the Board of Director elections were as follows:

- o Vice-President (Membership Chair) - Open
- o Treasurer - Tony Louderbough
- o Board Member-at-Large - Bucky Allred
- o Board Member-at-Large - Dave Rockwell

President Mark Winscott also announced the creation of a 'Trail Ambassador' position and the appointment of Ron Schubert to the initial spot. Frank Whiston was appointed to fill out the remaining portion of BR Fjord's (rest in peace) term. NMOHVA would like to thank the outgoing Board members for all their hard work and contributions over the term of their office: Hurley

Wilvert - Vice President and Jeff Boggs - Board Member-at-Large. The current Board has an open position for Vice-President (Membership Chair). If you are interested in serving NMOHVA, your chosen recreation, and your fellow members, contact Mark Winscott at prez@nmohva.org.

All attendees of the Annual Meeting were treated to a lunch of burgers and all the trimmings by Sandia BMW. Members also attended the Cedro Peak project groundbreaking ceremony held later that afternoon.



NMOHVA Appeal Rejected by Forest Service

The Forest Service's Region 3 Appeal Deciding Officer has **rejected NMOHVA's latest appeal**. NMOHVA had appealed the Forest Service's decision on the Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the West-side of the Carson National Forest. The West-side decision was for the Tres Piedras, El Rito, and Caniljon Ranger Districts. The NMOHVA appeal claimed the Forest Service had refused to consider adding more motorized recreation by improperly limiting the alternatives considered.

The appeal by NMOHVA and one submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) were the only two appeals received by the Forest Service on the Carson West-side Travel Management Decision. The CBD appeal was only marginally more successful. The Appeal Officer ruled that Forest Service must drop seven miles of unauthorized road that they intended to add to the road system until they complete a more complete analysis. An appeal is the last step in the NEPA process that allows the public to challenge a decision.

While our latest appeal didn't win like our recent Mountainair Ranger District appeal, being an active part of the decision process and fully utilizing all of the avenues available to the public are still vitally important. The numerous comments submitted and the appeals filed serve notice to the Forest Service that we are completely serious about holding them accountable. Our full participation throughout the NEPA process also increases our understanding of the process and provides sharp opposition to the people who want to kick us out.

"It is difficult to win them all and we consider this one sort of a 'draw'," said Mark Werkmeister, NMOHVA's past President. "We don't agree with the Appeal Deciding Officer but we took the process as far as we can without dragging them into court."

The Carson National Forest has not yet released its proposed actions for the Questa or Camino Real Districts. We expect both of those documents to be released before the summer. Watch our Access Alerts, the NMOHVA newsletter, and website so you don't miss out on the opportunity to preserve and protect our roads and trails in those last two Carson districts.