



# Protect Your Right to Ride!



## NMOHVA Member Newsletter

May

2011

### Upcoming Events

May 28/29 -

**Route 66 National Off-Road Race, Gallup NM**

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

Do you have an event to share? Contact NMOHVA at [pres@nmohva.org](mailto:pres@nmohva.org) for a listing in the newsletter.

### Trail Love in the Jemez

By Jim Tyldesley, Blackfeather Trail Preservation Association member and NMOHVA Secretary



A hearty thanks goes out to Lynn Bjorklund, Jennifer Sublett, and Joel Sublett of the Santa Fe National Forest and everybody who came and worked hard on the south side of the Pajarito Trail in Guaje Canyon on April 9th. We had a great turnout of about a dozen people.

The very popular Pajarito Trail in Gauje Canyon traverses an area that was burned in the big Cerro Grande fire of 2000. While this area has been re-opened to public use, the terrain and limited vegetation makes the trail especially susceptible to erosion if it is not appropriately managed. Under the Forest Service's direction, we cleared the trail of a ton of rolling small debris and some larger rocks, created sloping outflow on sections of the trail where rutting had started to form, and built some grade dips where needed. These modifications will allow the water to drain from

the surface of the trail as quickly as possible and the trail will hold up much better under continued usage by all of its many users.

Our project day this spring was a continuation of the work we started last year. The difference in the condition of the trail where we worked last year and adjacent un-worked sections is dramatic! This kind of work benefits everyone who uses the trail. It also builds our credibility with the other user groups and shows a commitment to the long-term sustainability of our trails. We achieved quite a bit, but there's still more to do on this steep, rocky section of trail. Please be on the lookout for future work-party date notifications later this spring/summer.

Thanks again to everyone who made this possible!



## **NMOHVA's Legislative Wrap-up for 2011**

Sixty day sessions can be grueling! It takes both patience and fortitude to represent OHV interests in Santa Fe. The focus of the legislator's this year was our state's finances - sometimes, it seemed, to the exclusion of almost everything else. This definitely had an impact on the outcome of our labors. Here is a quick wrap-up of NMOHVA's efforts and results at this year's legislative session.

NMOHVA President, Mark Winscott, authored companion bills that would have empowered local jurisdictions to designate their roads and streets for OHV travel. The bills were House Bill 445

(sponsored by Representative Cook) and companion Senate Bill 254 (sponsored by Senator Munoz). Unfortunately, neither bill was heard in their first committee hearing. Committee chairmen have a great deal of control over which bills get heard and we were unable to generate enough support to insist the committee chairman put the bills on the agenda. Similar bills have already been implemented in neighboring Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. NM already permits OHV's on roads for agricultural use. These bills would have extended that privilege to OHV's for the intent of recreation (gas, food, supplies, lodging, trail-to-trail, etc). NMOHVA will continue to support bills like this that would help enable the OHV recreation industry.



NMOHVA also created two bills that would have required NM Game & Fish (who manage the state's OHV program) to spend 25% of the Trail Safety Fund's balance annually toward tangible trail work: maintenance, improvement, correction, new routing. This money would have been dispersed via grants from Game & Fish. House Bill 435 (sponsored by Representative Herrell) and the sister Senate Bill 481 (sponsored by Senator Cravens) were never heard in committee. Representative Herrell withdrew her bill from the committee hearing agenda due to last minute opposition to the bill from several sources. Game & Fish was opposed to the new

requirement citing the many Forest Service Travel Management decisions still under consideration. The bill also faced the expected opposition from the anti-OHV extremists who argued such a requirement would deny 'needed' enforcement efforts.

NMOHVA supported these bills because spending 25% of the fund each year on trail projects would reduce the Fund's growing unspent funds. Three times the fund has been the target for raiding by the legislative (with this year's 3rd attempt being successful for \$500,000). NMOHVA is disheartened that the Trail Safety Fund's monies have been diverted to patching state budget deficits instead of going towards the original stated purpose. We are also concerned the impact this successful raid could have on citizen compliance for future sticker purchases/renewals.

Representative Don Tripp, one of our more active supporters in the legislature, has encouraged us to begin our OHV legislation efforts for next year right now! He shares our opinion that the State needs to further develop its OHV recreation industry.

If you are interested in taking an ACTIVE role in helping create and support pro-OHV legislation for next year's consideration, please contact Mark at [prez@nmohva.org](mailto:prez@nmohva.org).

## Ron Schubert's ATV on the Job at Cedro Project

NMOHVA's new Trail Coordinator, Ron Schubert, answered NMOHVA's call for help. The Cedro Peak RTP Grant project requires hundreds of holes for signs and fence posts. The hole-drilling auger will be mounted on the front of a sturdy utility ATV with a winch. The grant covers the auger but we needed to find an ATV. Ron offered the use of one of his family ATVs, a 400cc Suzuki Eiger. This is just what our contractor Jim Cooper needs. "I'm very familiar with the Eiger, I've used them for trail work in the past", said Jim. Thanks to Ron for helping us get 'posted' at Cedro Peak. And we'll keep all of you 'posted' as the Cedro Peak work moves along.

