

Ravalli County Off Road User Association

www.ravallioffroad.org

November 2014

Calendar of 2014 Upcoming events:

The rides listed on the Calendar are hosted by a club member and are not "club sponsored" rides unless they are stated as such.

November 5th Board Meeting 6 PM at the Groomer Shed

November 11th General Meeting 7 PM at the Groomer Shed: Elections of Officers for the 2015 year. Potluck before the meeting at 6 PM. Guest Speakers will be the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor Julie King, along with Deb Gale and Monte Monroe. This will be our LAST GENERAL MEETING OF THE 2014 YEAR!

December 13th Christmas Party: Ravalli County Fair Grounds Art Building 6 PM. Joint with the Bitterroot Ridge Runners, SEE ENCLOSED FLYER.

2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES CAN BE PAID ANYTIME, get yours in early!

Next Newsletter and General Meeting will be March of 2015!

Elections of Officers is November 11, 2014 Please plan on attending.

The Association will elect new Officers and Board members for 2015. As our current President-Elect, Juli Morgan will serve as President for 2015. RCORUA By Laws require the current Board of Directors to recommend a slate of candidates for 2015. Nominations for Officers and Board members will also be taken from the floor at the November 11 meeting.

To vote or hold an office you need to be a paid member. At the present time, the Board of Directors offers the following candidates for consideration by the membership:

President Elect Lisa Jessop

SECRETARY : Kathy Transue

TREASURER : No candidates at this time. If no one steps up Marsha Waliser will fill in.

BOARD MEMBER (vote for four):

Brent Nelson Don Miller

Dave Doll Mike Jeffords

Marsha Waliser Russ Transue

Any member who would like to investigate the possibility of being included as a candidate for any office should contact Dan Thompson at 531-3103 or John Transue 369-2909

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Business Sponsorship is only \$100.00 per year!

A great value as it reaches hundreds of individuals each month. Your business is listed each month in the newsletter and on the web and once a year your business card (if provided with your sponsorship dues) is included in the newsletter! Please send a card to the club or email Marsha with a scanned card or colored layout at: mwaliser2292@gmail.com . Or if you want your web address listed in the newsletter and on our web site you can email Marsha or Kathy T. kathy.transue@gmail.com

For Sale:

ORTOVOX AVALANCHE TRANSCIEVER Model F1 Focus (Sapphire Blue and Silver) used Twice (New \$270.00) Sell for \$150.00

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Darby, MT 59829

Our web site at www.ravallioffroad.org has photos, a calendar of events, ride info, the newsletters and much more. You can email your photos, ride info or other items to: kathy.transue@gmail.com Log on often to see what is happening!

Christmas Party December 13th Mark your calendar!

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Tom Kimp 363-4050

Business Sponsorship runs from Date Paid on a yearly basis!

A big THANK YOU goes to all the sponsors, your continued support and involvement helps the association in its effort to keep the trails open.

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?

by Dan Thompson

In previous articles, I hope I have been successful in pointing out that the real forces behind the neo-environmental movement consist of a relatively small group of wealthy individuals who, through their tax exempt foundations, control the money, tactics, and agendas of the more publicly visible groups such as the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, etc. Without the massive infusion of cash provided by foundations, most of the neo-environmental groups would have little chance of survival. In this article, I propose to take a more in-depth look at just one of these neo-environmental groups as an example of how the neo-environmental agenda is controlled by a few wealthy individuals.

The group I want to look at is called the WildEarth Guardians (WEG for short). The predecessor of WEG was a group called Forest Guardians founded by Sam Hitt in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1980. Sam Hitt was a real foaming-at-the-mouth fanatic who originally took on the Forest Service and BLM in northern New Mexico by filing endless lawsuits. The activities of Mr. Hitt were originally funded by the Tides Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, the Alton Jones Foundation, and the McCune Foundation. But Sam Hitt was a prickly personality and was publicly confrontational, and the funding foundations became nervous that Hitt was giving "environmentalism" a bad name. While the foundations didn't have a problem supporting fanatics, the anti-everything, take-no-prisoners public persona of Hitt was unacceptable to the Pew Charitable Trusts and they threatened to cut off their funding unless Hitt was removed as head of Forest Guardians.

After Sam got the boot, Forest Guardians worked hard to repair their damaged public image and attract more foundation funding. In 2007, Forest Guardians merged with another non-profit called Sinapu located in Denver, CO, and renamed themselves WildEarth Guardians. The merged groups worked diligently to repair the public image inherited from Sam Hitt and instill behavioral, economic and tactical discipline in the organization. In 2013, WildEarth Guardians acquired (they called it a merger) the Utah Environmental Coalition in Utah and Wildlands CPR in Montana. But Hitt's legacy of confronting land management agencies in court continues to be their primary tactic.

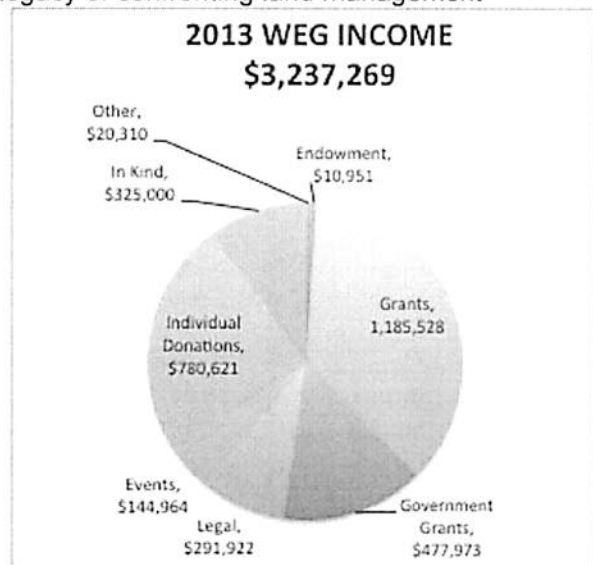
Today, WildEarth Guardians boasts 26 full-time professional staff (8 of whom are attorneys) and a presence in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Utah. They have successfully polished their image by claiming to "protect the wildlife, wild places, wild rivers, and health of the American West". But their tactics remain those adopted by Sam Hitt in 1980: Remove all traces of human activities on public land by filing endless lawsuits.

The chart is reconstructed from the WEG website.

Note that their largest source of revenue is from foundation grants. Surprisingly, a significant amount of revenue is provided by government grants. Does our government really spend our tax dollars to provide funding for litigious extremists? It's not clear to me how a tax-exempt organization can realize "legal" income: Could this be revenue generated from EAJA awards? On the expense side (not shown), it is worthy to note how efficiently WEG is run. Only 9.4% of their expenses are dedicated to administration.

WEG is fairly typical of today's neo-environmental groups. Primarily foundation funded, very professionally and skillfully managed, financially and tactically disciplined, and with a carefully managed and polished public image.

And all that is made possible by money supplied by a relatively few wealthy individuals.



NEED A NEW JAMES BOND TOY?

By Dan Thompson

Crossing lakes and rivers no longer has to be a problem if you own a Gibbs Quadski: You can go over them. Want to access a remote lake and go fishing? You can do both with a Quadski because it converts from an ATV to a Jetski with the flick of a button.

Gibbs Sport Amphibians of Detroit have recently introduced this amphibious land/water vehicle to the motorsports market. The company says it is capable of speeds up to 45 mph on land or water. The vehicle is powered by the legendary 1300 cc in-line four cylinder BMW motorcycle engine so it doesn't lack power. When entering the water, the wheels retract and power is transferred to a waterjet pump. By all accounts, this transformation takes place seamlessly for the operator.



Of course, its not all good news. Recent tests by *Car and Driver* magazine report that the Quadski won't compete with a conventional ATV on land nor a conventional personal water craft on the water. And it's big and heavy: 1200 lbs. dry weight, 126 inches long and 63 inches wide. And it's only currently available in 2WD. And, at \$40,000 its out of the reach of ordinary people. Still, for those who have more money than they know what to do with, its available. And it is remarkably technically innovative.

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James L. Thomas



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Fax: (406) 363-3595

The following is parts from Sandra Mitchell of the Idaho State Snowmobile Association. If you would like me to email you the whole letter please email mwaliser2292@gmail.com. Letters need to be submitted by November 12th.

If you own a snowmobile then you NEED to submit comments. We have been working on preserving riding in the Great Burn which is part of the Hoodoo Roadless area in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest for years. This area is in a Recommended Wilderness Area (RWA) in Region 1—you know what that means; no motorized or mechanized uses allowed because of their determination to manage RWAs as wilderness. We have been fighting this issue in the courts and in the administrative process and we CANNOT give up. This is simply another opportunity to demonstrate that snowmobilers will not accept the policy or the unnecessary closure of our riding areas!

Please, I need you to submit comments and do so before November 12, 2014. NIKE has it right, Just Do It!

Send to:

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Supervisor's Office

ATTN: Forest Plan Revision

903 3rd Street

Kamiah, Idaho 83536

Via U.S. Mail

and Via Facsimile: (208) 935-4275

and Via E-Mail: fpr_npclw@fs.fed.us

RE: Forest Plan Revision Salmon Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest



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Membership Application / Renewal 2015

Mail to Ravalli County Off-Road User Association, P.O. Box 72, Hamilton, MT 59840

Date: _____ Check Number _____

Single (\$10.00) _____ Single Lifetime \$150.00 _____ Family (\$20.00) _____ Business / Sponsor (\$100.00) _____

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Individual & Family Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st yearly. Business Sponsors runs from date paid.

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Do you want emails sent to you :all _____ , only meeting notices _____ or none _____ ?

PLEASE fill out the above form when renewing or for a new membership. Check or fill out all the lines that apply. We are encouraging members that have email addresses to sign up for the emailed version of the newsletter (in color) to cut our expenses. PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU WANT THE NEWSLETTER SENT TO YOU AND IF YOU WANT ANY EMAIL'S!

Your privacy is important to us, your information is only used for club purposes and is not shared with any outside entity. Notify us if you do not want your name or picture published in the newsletter or on the website!

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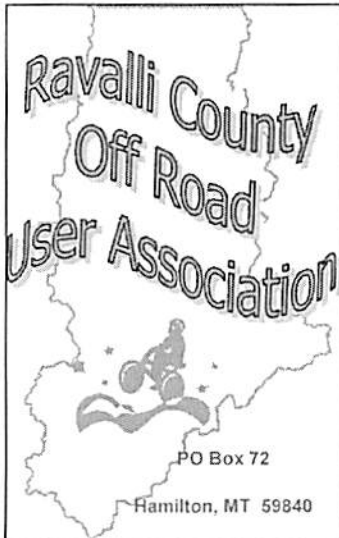
Brent Nelson

P.O. Box 877

458 Rye Creek Road

Darby, Montana 59829

www.ravallioffroad.org



Our mission is to bring together on and off highway enthusiasts to enjoy, promote and protect responsible Off Highway Vehicle Use and other recreational activities.

Editor's notes:

RCORUA board is looking for ideas to make the meetings fun, enjoyable and better attended. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas. You can email them to Marsha Waliser (editor) mwaliser2292@gmail.com or to any board member. We are also looking at the possibility of changing the general meeting day to a Wednesday or ?, several members have conflicts with the meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. any suggestions or ideas?

We are also trying to put together a "PLACES TO RIDE" folder or listing for the web page and that we can give to the members. Please give to Marsha or Kathy Jeffords any suggestions or a list of places that you don't mind sharing. Please let us know what the trail or area is like, if camping is available and what type of machines are allowed.

As always the newsletter is needing articles, pictures, business cards or For Sale items. The editor needs the items by the last week of the month to get them in the next newsletter. I try and get the newsletter to the printer and the email version out the week before our general meetings. The next newsletter will be March of 2015, so need the items the week of February 22nd.