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Capital Trail Vehicle Assn, Mike Sedlock
Gallatin Valley Dirt Riders, Jeff Holman
Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Assn, Mark Klemencic
Mining City Trail Riders, Benny Finnicum
Ranch Riders, Glendive, Marty Ulrich
Ravalli Co Off Road Users Assn, Brent Nelson
Rimrock Trail Riders, Doug Pochls
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Attention: Members if you are not receiving email news, please send in your email addresses. The cost of producing the newsletter, shortage of volunteers, and the real time lag in getting information to you in a timely fashion make the electronic network an important tool now and for the future. We promise we will not deluge you with excessive notices. All news releases sent to MTVRA will be reviewed for importance to Montana before sending out. To be added to the network, simply email: mona.ehnes@gmail.com and ask to be added.

Electronic Network

MTVRA BYLAWS - Current bylaws, with changes approved June 2006, are posted on our website, www.MTVRA.com
 PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Fall greetings from the Board of Directors and myself. It’s been a hot, busy summer for everyone. I hope you got out and enjoyed the OHV opportunities throughout our state and in your area.

The Bull Run Guest Ranch hosted the July 28th Board meeting. We met early, went for a ride before starting the meeting which carried thru until mid-afternoon. Over a working lunch, items were discussed, and decisions made that you need to know about early and put on your calendar.

The Annual Meeting date was set for November 3, 2018 at Whitehall, watch for email with details.

Roger Hagan has been hired as the lobbyist for the 2019 Legislative Session.

Carl Siroky, Billings, has volunteered to become the editor of the newsletter, starting next issue.

The State Ride 2019 will be held jointly with CTVA and located again at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Boulder on the June 27, 28 & 29. The venue has been reserved and if you are interested in helping with next years event, contact Doug Abelin, CTVA at 406-461-4818.

Enjoy the great fall weather, See you on the trail.

Mike Jeffords
President, MTVRA

Important number:
AMA/ATVA Membership
From Mona Ehnes, Secretary Treasurer, MTVRA

You will note that on the MTVRA membership renewal form there is a spot for your AMA number (if you have one). It is important that if you are either AMA or ATVA member that you list your number. The $100 charter fee for the year can be waived if we send a list of at least 25 AMA member with their AMA numbers. While we have some, we do need to verify the numbers and add those missing.

As an AMA Chartered Club, we secure a sanction number and the insurance coverage for our recreational events at a reasonable fee. This makes events easy to host.

Also the American Motorcyclist Association, AMA, and the All-Terrain Vehicle Association, ATVA, provide a benefit for the motorized community with the knowledgeable and persistent government relations specialists in their offices. These specialists work with local contacts to get to the heart of local problems and help whenever possible. Ok, that’s the commercial, so now go to www.ama-assn.org/membership, give them a look/see and join up.

Montana OHV Clubs

Billings . . . . . Billings Motorcycle Club
Billings . . . . . Rimrock Trail Riders
Billings . . . . . Treasure State ATV Assn.
Butte . . . . . . . Mining City Trail Riders
Glendive . . . . . The Ranch Riders
Great Falls . . Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Assn.
Hamilton . . . . Bitterroot Ridge Runners

Hamilton . . . . Ravalli Co Off-Road Users Assn.
Lincoln . . . . . Blackfoot Valley OHV Assn.
Manhattan . . . Gallatin Valley Dirt Riders
Missoula . . . Western Montana Trail Riders Assn.
Seeley Lake . . Seeley-Swan ATV Club, Inc.
Trout Creek . . Cabinet Ridge Riders

Download the Montana State Parks App to your phone using the QR code below. The app contains information about all of the State Parks in Montana. For information on Montana’s OHV program, visit their website at www.stateparks.mt.gov

See what’s in store for you at: 302 Truck Bypass • Lewistown, MT (406) 538-9435
The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable

From Americans for Responsible Recreational Access (ARRA), Washington Newsletter

“A Bureau of Economic Analysis study showed that motorized recreation was the largest activity within conventional outdoor recreation in 2016, accounting for $59.4 billion of gross output. Last month a new organization was unveiled, the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR).

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable is a coalition of America’s leading outdoor recreation trade associations working to promote the policy and legislative reforms needed to grow the outdoor recreation economy. Roundtable members represent the thousands of U.S. businesses that produce vehicles, equipment, gear, apparel and services for the millions of Americans who enjoy our nation’s parks, waterways, byways, trails and outdoor spaces.

Combined, the various business sectors within the outdoor recreation industry generate hundreds of billions per year in economic activity and create millions of direct jobs. Coalition members produce the eight largest recreation tradeshows in the U.S. and annually contribute billions in federal excise tax, sales tax and duties.

ORR represents the 144 million Americans who enjoy a healthy lifestyle by participating in outdoor recreation. These outdoor enthusiasts are some of our country’s most passionate conservationists and are the reason that ORR stands behind policies that support conservation, recreation and economic development in equal measure. Members include:

American Horse Council
Association of Marina Industries (AMI)
The American Sportfishing Association
Archery Trade Association
BoatU.S.
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Marine Retailers Association of America
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (ARVC)
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)
PeopleForBikes
RV Dealers Association (RVDA)
RV Industry Association
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
SnowSports Industries America
Specially Equipment Market Association
Specially Vehicle Institute of America

For more information, go to http://www.rvia.org/?ESID=ORIR

A User Pays Program!

Thanks to Montana’s Legislature and Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association

By Bob Walker, Editor

Montana Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) owners pay the majority of costs for maintaining and enhancing trails open to OHV recreation in Montana. Thanks to requests by OHV owners, the 1997 session of the Montana legislature passed Montana’s first OHV registration law that requires all OHVs used on public lands to display a registration decal. County treasurers deposit moneys collected in a dedicated fund to be used solely for Montana’s OHV program!

The 1991 session of the Montana legislature responded to requests from the Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association to return that portion of the state gas tax paid by OHV owners for use off-road. The OHV program annually receives 1/8th of 1% of the state gas tax solely for use in the OHV program. Please see the article in this issue about Representative Kerry White’s bill to increase this refund to the OHV program from 1/8 to 23/50 of 1%!

The State Parks Division of Fish, Wildlife & Parks administers the majority of these funds with advice from a citizen’s advisory committee. OHV clubs and land managing agencies request grants for maintenance of existing OHV trails, safety and ethics education, noxious weed control, and trail steward projects.

In addition to registration and gas tax fees paid by OHV owners, volunteers and OHV clubs donate thousands of hours of time to maintain a portion of trails open to all recreationists and provide safety and ethics education to Montana’s youth and adults. Without these investments made by Montana’s OHV owners, thousands of miles of trails open to all recreationists would disappear due to lack of maintenance. OHV safety education programs would suffer or not exist, and depleted trail conditions would risk the safety of recreationists. Thanks again to Montana’s Legislature and the Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association!

Montana’s OHV Advisory Committee
Russ Ehnes, Great Falls
Jody Llomis, Helena
Brad Colin, Butte
Jennifer Schofield, East Helena
Kent Wellner, Missoula
Mark Klenencic, Great Falls
Bob Walker, Clancy

Internet Web Pages for OHV, Snowmobile & Other Recreation

NATIONAL
American Council of Snowmobile Associations: www.snowmobilers.org/
American Motorcyclist Association: http://www.americanmotorcyclist.com/
ATV Riding: https://www.americanmotorcyclist.com/Riding/ATV-Riding
American Recreation Coalition: http://www.funoutdoors.com/arc
Americans for Responsible Recreational Access: https://www.arra-access.com/
American Trails: https://www.americantrails.org/
Blue Ribbon Coalition: https://sharetrails.org/#Welcome

MONTANA ASSOCIATIONS
Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association: https://www.mtvra.com/
Montana Trails Coalition: https://www.montanatraillscoalition.org/
Montana Snowmobile Association: https://www.snowmobilemt.org/
Montana 4X4 Association: http://www.m4x4a.org/

Billings Motorcycle Club: http://bmcmontana.com/
Citizens for Balanced Use: http://www.balanceduse.org/
Friends of Pipestone: http://friendsofpipestone.com/
Ravalli County Off Road Users Association: https://ravalliroad.org/
Seeley Swan ATV Club: http://www.seeleyswanatvclub.org/
Treasure State ATV Association: http://www.tsatv.org/
Western Montana Trail Riders Association: http://www.mtntrailride.com/

AGENCIES
Bureau of Land Management: https://www.blm.gov/mont/statenews/billings_field_office.html
Fish, Wildlife & Parks: http://fw.p.mt.gov/
USDA Forest Service, Region 1: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r1
NOTE: The 2019 session of the Montana Legislature will convene the first week of January. Legislators will introduce bills that affect OHV and other recreation. Following find information about how to communicate and work with your legislators!

The U.S. and state constitutions give every citizen the right to speak on public issues and to be heard by officials at every level of government. At the Montana Legislature, that means you have the right to share your thoughts and opinions about any public issue under consideration by lawmakers.

The state Legislature functions in an open and public atmosphere. Committee meetings and floor sessions are open to the public. All votes must be taken in public and recorded for public access.

One of the most important opportunities to become involved in the debate over a bill is when it is the subject of a hearing before a legislative committee. You can communicate personally with legislators at any time about any bill, but the committee hearing is the occasion when anyone may publicly approve, oppose, or suggest changes to a bill.

Committee hearings allow you to speak your mind before the committee takes any action and before the bill is brought to the attention of the House and Senate for debate and a final vote. The purpose of committee hearings is to gather information so that the committee can make an informed recommendation on a given bill or resolution. Legislators were elected to represent citizens like you. They are eager to hear your thoughts and perspective.

How to Find a Committee

Printed schedules of each day’s hearings are available at the Session Information Desk, and some major Montana newspapers print the hearing schedules each day of the session.

You may enter a legislative hearing room at any time, even if the door is closed or a hearing is in progress. The common standards of courtesy and respect apply; enter quietly if a meeting is in progress. Be sure to turn off your cell phone before entering. Food and drink (other than water) are not permitted in hearing rooms.

How to Get a Copy of a Bill

During legislative sessions, copies of bills are available for a small charge in the Bill Distribution Room (Room 74) in the basement of the Capitol. Because a bill may be amended at many stages of its life, be sure you have the most recent version. Bills are also available electronically on this website through the Legislative Automated Workflow System, or LAWS. (Please note that the printed version of a bill is the official version; the electronic version may not be in its final form when posted.)

Know the Committee

It is a good idea to know the legislative members of a committee. The easiest way to find this information, go to: https://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/default.html.

A staff person from one of the Legislative Branch agencies is permanently assigned to each committee to provide professional assistance. Each committee also has a secretary assigned for the session to keep the record and perform clerical functions.

How a Hearing Works

Committee hearings are as informal and unpretentious as decorum allows.

Please note that a committee often hears multiple bills at each meeting. The order in which bills are heard is at the chair’s discretion and is announced at the start of each hearing.

Because the committee tries to consider several bills at each meeting, the chair will allot time for proponents and opponents of each measure. The chair also will call for informational witnesses. These are people who are neither for nor against a bill but who have objective information that may be useful to the committee as it deliberates. After all the testimony is over, the chair will allow committee members to ask questions of those who have testified.

At a hearing with many prospective witnesses, there may not be time for everyone to testify. In that case, you may be asked to state only your name and whether you are a proponent or opponent. You can always submit written testimony to the committee, even if you are not given the opportunity to speak due to time constraints.

Each bill hearing opens with the bill’s sponsor explaining its purpose and background. The presiding officer will then ask to hear statements from proponents, followed by opponents and then informational witnesses, if there are any.

When your turn to testify comes, begin by addressing the presiding officer and committee members (for example, “Mr. Chairman, members of the committee….”). Then identify yourself by name, hometown, occupation, affiliation, or other information that will indicate your acquaintance with the subject.

You are strongly encouraged to provide a written copy of your testimony to committee members and the committee secretary, so that your testimony will become part of the official record. But do not let the fact that you have not prepared a written statement stop you from testifying.

Questions from the Committee

After witnesses have testified, the presiding officer will allow committee members to ask questions of them and the bill’s sponsor. If you are called upon, respond directly. Start your response by addressing the presiding officer and then the legislator who asked the question (“Mr. Chairman, Senator So-and-so….”). Then identify yourself by name, hometown, occupation, affiliation, or other information that will indicate your acquaintance with the subject.

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When committee members have concluded their questions, the sponsor will make a closing statement to end the hearing on that particular bill.

Public Comment Guidelines

Written Documents are public documents. If you submit written material, please do not include any information that you wish to keep private!

Presenting Comments at A Legislative Committee Meeting: During the public comment period for a topic on a committee agenda, please follow these guidelines!

- Introduce yourself at the podium and spell out your last name
- Explain to the committee what policy/law change you want the committee to explore and recommend to the legislature.
- If you have a personal experience or example to illustrate your case, summarize briefly.
- Limit your comments to the subject of the agenda.
- Avoid repeating what others have already stated.
- Be brief! Legislators want to hear key points from all in attendance so brevity is appreciated!
- Bring handouts if you feel they provide important detail. Include your name and contact information.
- Maintain decorum. It is not appropriate to clap, cheer, or boo about comments made by other speakers. In fact, those actions can damage your cause.
- Do not ask a committee to intervene in a case involving a specific individual. The committee can not intervene in a situation that may be the subject of a department hearing or action or court proceeding.
- Do not ask committee members questions. This is a committee’s chance to hear from you and to ask you questions.
Protect Our Resources – Use TIP-MONT

From FWP webpage at: http://fwp.mt.gov/enforcement/tipmont/poaching/faq.html#line1

TIP-MONT is Montana’s toll-free hotline to report poaching and other crimes. It stands for “Turn In Poachers Montana.” Call 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668). Callers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for cash rewards. Fish, Wildlife & Parks also provides an on-line option for reporting crimes at https://myfwp.mt.gov/fwpPub/tipmont.

In the entire state of Montana there are only 72 field wardens. Wildlife needs your eyes and ears to report these serious and costly crimes. Since 1985, TIP-MONT received more than 13,540 reports of poaching and other crimes, resulting in 1,521 convictions. These convictions netted $810,500 in fines, $337,000 in restitution. Also, nearly $155,000 in rewards were paid to citizens who reported suspected poachers and other crimes.

A caller, who can remain anonymous, is assigned a code number. All information about the poaching incident is taken. FWP law enforcement personnel evaluate the information. Investigations are begun immediately and must follow the same rules and constitutional guidelines as any law enforcement investigation.

If a poacher is arrested or issued a citation on the basis of information provided by a caller, a reward is authorized. Rewards can be paid in cash and the pay-off is arranged to protect the anonymity of the caller. Many wildlife enthusiasts, however, don’t want a reward. They just want the criminals stopped.

Can one person really help stop poaching in Montana? If you believe “enough is enough,” you can help stop poaching. If you see a poaching incident, report it. Poaching is a crime against you, your neighbor, and everyone else in Montana. Call 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668).

MTVRA Mission

To create a positive future for Montana off-highway vehicle recreation by creating an ongoing communications forum through which OHV enthusiasts and organizations can share information and experiences; participate in educational opportunities; build partnerships with land managers, land owners, and supporters; and become partners in protecting, promoting and creating a positive image of OHV recreation.

MTVRA Purpose

Serve as a statewide organization of OHV recreationists in Montana.
Produce the rights of OHV riders to recreate on Montana’s public lands in a responsible manner.
Create a statewide communications network of OHV enthusiasts, clubs, and their supporters.
Educate users about natural resource protection, weed control, and environmental awareness.
Ensure that all OHV enthusiasts are aware of their impact on and responsibility to the environment.
Educate users about ethics, trail etiquette, safety, and the importance of quiet OHV’s and riding in a responsible manner.
Provide educational opportunities and reference materials in volunteer development, organizing and club management, community action, resource development and other materials needed to accomplish these goals.
Promote a positive public image of OHV recreation with land managers, landowners, government officials and the general public.
Foster a collaborative environment to resolve OHV issues.
Develop relationships with “decision makers” to help them recognize that OHV use can be effectively managed.
Foster new OHV groups and strengthen existing groups through improved organizational skills and increased membership.
Promote the collective interests of OHV enthusiasts in Montana. Use the slogan “creating a positive future for off-highway vehicle recreation”, which captures the essence of our mission, in conjunction with our logo, on all printed material.
Final Report for MTVRA

**Off Highway Vehicle Ethics Program 2017-2018 School Year**

This is the first year that Nathan Leazer was teaching the program. We reached a total of 8,928 students throughout Montana. Jim Dochnahl helped train his replacement Nathan in the fall of 2017. He did an excellent job and set Nathan up for success for the school year to come. It was quite easy to schedule most schools with having the contact information that Jim provided. Even though having all the tools Jim provided it was still difficult to reach the same number of students as last year. The program was down by 1,480 students this year. This is mostly contributed to it being Nathan’s first year with the program.

From October-June there was a total of 70 schools reached across Montana. Many teachers love this program and feel it is very important. One teacher wrote “Always good information for us at SMS(Somers Middle School) because many of the students are around OHV’s.” The teachers are almost always surprised when they see how many students raise their hands for riding OHV’s. It is very critical for the youth of Montana to learn ethics young, so we can have trails available in the future to ride on.

This year the recycling went away with Jim when he retired. Since so many school enjoy having recycling in schools Nathan has come up with a compromise. Recycle Montana is developing recycling trunks for teachers to teach the program themselves. Nathan has been helping Recycle Montana to transport these trunks to schools when it works out with his schedule. This helps cut cost for shipping them and for the schools receiving them. This also helps him stay in the schools that enjoy the recycling program, without him having to teach the recycling himself.

A new part of the program that was added this year was Camping Ethics. It helped relate to the students who don’t ride OHV’s. Nearly all students related to camping in the summer time. This mainly focused on pack out what you pack in, fire safety, being bear aware, and the principals of Tread Lightly. Many teachers enjoyed the addition of this section. This information ties in with the same principals of OHV ethics and helps the students understand the impact people can have on the environment. Nathan is hoping to use this new information to get in to new schools and reach more students next year.

This program is just as important now as it has ever been. With the number of OHV riders increasing every year, so will the number of recreators in general. Reaching the kids about pivotal information on preserving our public lands is always a priority in Montana. While Nathan loves the work he is doing, he also understands this is very important information and is looking forward to taking the program further than it has gone before.

Nathan Leazer
Ethics Educator, Butte, MT

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**Common Courtesy for Riding Safely**

Sharing Trails
Do your part to increase safety and improve trail satisfaction for all trail enthusiasts on multiple-use trails. Many of Montana’s trails are open to and shared by equestrians, OHV riders, bicycle riders, runners, hikers and more. Trail sharing can and does work when people respect each other and work cooperatively to keep each other safe. Follow these basic rules to help ensure that meeting on the trail will be a safe and enjoyable experience:

**Common Courtesy**
- Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- When traveling on shared use trails, continually watch for other types of recreationists.
- Slow down when site lines are poor.
- Keep speeds low around other recreationists.
- Keep noise and dust down.
- Listening to headphones or ear buds can make it difficult to hear and communicate with other recreationists.

**Yielding**
- Yield the right of way to those passing you from behind or traveling uphill.
- Motorized vehicles yield to mountain bikes, hikers, and horses.
- Mountain bikes yield to hikers and horses.
- Hikers yield to horses.

Great Western Trail Montana/Idaho Connection Celebration

The Great Western Trail Association, in partnership with the Custer Gallatin National Forest, celebrated the dedication of a new segment of the Great Western Trail (GWT) that connects the existing Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho sections with Montana. Attendance at the event included representatives of the Great Western Trail Association including Mike Browning and Mike Titus, the USDA Forest Service, Idaho OHV Association, Wyoming OHV Association, Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association, Montana Snowmobile Association and the Parks Division of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

When recognized as a National Millennium Trail by the Department of Transportation and the White House Millennium Council, Former Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater stated that “Transportation is about more than concrete, asphalt, and steel, it’s about people. Millennium Trails will connect our nation’s landscape, heritage and culture and symbolize America’s legacy for the new millennium.”

The Great Western Trail provides a fantastic long distance recreation experience, promotes opportunities for economic growth, provides multi-use access to our public lands, and acquaints the user with the culture, history, and traditions of the West.

The Great Western Trail is under study by Congress to become part of the National Trail System. The GWT is a 3,000+ mile corridor of already existing trails, routes and roads, mostly on public lands. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other land management agencies have identified points where these routes naturally link together, forming a corridor of trails that runs from the Mexican border ultimately to the Canadian border. The trail is a predominately multi-use system, allowing both motorized and non-motorized recreation on both shared and separated paralleling routes. (see www.gwt.org).

This dedication celebrated the partnerships between the users and developers of the trail, the numerous land management agencies, and the surrounding communities. This grass roots effort will insure continued development and maintenance of the Great Western Trail.

Capital Trail Vehicle Association’s Busy Summer

Information from Doug Abelin, Chair, CTVA

Photos by Patty Daugaard, Secretary-Treasurer, CTVA

The Capital Trail Vehicle Association enjoyed a busy summer riding and maintaining trails, hosting a statewide Fun Run, helping with an ultra-runner’s event, and attending important meetings concerning travel plans and wilderness study areas.

The CTVA hosted the statewide Fun Run on June 22 and 23 that attracted more than 120 people. The headquarters was at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Boulder. The Boulder community and the Jefferson County Commission have welcomed this event in past years. It brings good people to our community and has a very positive economic impact! The club spent the previous weeks clearing trails and preparing for the big event. Guided rides both Saturday and Sunday gave participants the opportunity to explore hundreds of miles of trails and forest roads in the mountains.

The CTVA held monthly club rides with one ride on the McCardy and Rawhide trails included 20 people and 15 OHVs! The three CTVA trail work crews worked tirelessly throughout the summer maintaining trail treadways and clearing what seemed to be unending deadfall from trails. The club also opened up and eliminated dangerous trail conditions on single track trails in the Big Belt Mountains with a $6,700 grant from Montana’s OHV program administered by the Parks Division of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

On Saturday, August 4, the Helena Ultra Runners League (HURL) hosted the Elk Horn Mountains Endurance Runs. The big run included 50 miles of rugged and varying elevation changes and those who completed the event are called survivors! CTVA, at the request of HURL, stocked first aid equipment and energy supplies, and worked aid stations on remote sites along the run. This is the second year of this partnership and we plan to continue in the future.

Club members attended meetings in Helena and Lincoln to provide input on the development of the Helena–Lewis and Clark Forest Plan Revision. The club has many concerns about the plan’s long range impact on OHV trails and fear a loss of many miles of trails and roads. Club members also attended a meeting in Dillon to provide input on the future of wilderness study areas. More than 200 people attended this controversial meeting and, because of the large turnout, there was virtually no time for individual testimony.

Finally, and on a lighter note, how many CTVA members does it take to unload Doug Abelin’s ATV? The whole club!!!

Flush Away Septic Service

Ken Grismers
Formerly Gris Enterprises
799-4125
Great Falls

No After Hours Charge • Senior/Military Discounts
‘Look Before You Pump’ Ethanol Education Campaign

By International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association

The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has partnered with the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) and the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) in the ‘Look Before You Pump’ campaign, an ethanol education and consumer protection program. The campaign reminds consumers to always use fuels containing no greater than ten percent ethanol when powering their outdoor power equipment or other non-road product, such as boats, snowmobiles, motorcycles, ATVs not designed for higher ethanol fuel blends.

The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association is the leading association representing the manufacturers of snowmobiles, which encourage policies, programs and activities to improve the lifestyle activity of snowmobiling.

The ‘Look Before You Pump’ campaign is most known by its emblematic prominent, red warning hand symbol indicating ‘OK’ for 10 percent ethanol and ‘No’ for mid-level ethanol blends (such as E15, E30, E85). The campaign was launched in October 2013, in response to higher ethanol blended fuels being made available in the marketplace for ‘flex-fuel’ automobiles, and to warn consumers not to inadvertently mis-fuel their engine products not designed to handle these higher ethanol fuel blends.

The level of support for ‘Look Before You Pump’ continues to grow. No one wants to damage or destroy their equipment. But the changing fuel marketplace demands education, as evidenced by retailers, dealers, and manufacturers—and now major industry organizations—being more proactive in telling American consumers and business owners to be more mindful when selecting the right fuel for their products.

According to Ed Klim, President of ISMA, “It is important our customers know their fuel selection is important.”

The National Marine Manufacturers Association also joined forces this summer in spreading the campaign messaging, and major retail outlets including Lowe’s, Walmart and True Value, as well as independent dealers, began using the ‘Look Before You Pump’ message in their stores and in customer circulars and catalogs this past year.

A summer 2013 Interactive study shows the vast majority of Americans (71 percent) are “not at all sure” if it is illegal or legal to put high level ethanol gas (i.e., anything greater than 10 percent ethanol) into engines such as those in boats, mowers, chain saws, snowmobiles, generators and other engine products. The US EPA is on record stating that snowmobiles should NOT use fuel with more than 10% ethanol (E-10).

Montana Trails are 2-Way Traffic

From: Mona Ehnes, MTVRA

All Montana OHV trails are two way traffic. You should expect to meet oncoming riders so be aware, slow down, and keep an eye out for that new little rider just beginning to enjoy the family sport we all love!
Legislative Draft Bill would Increase Funds for All Trails!

By Bob Walker, Editor

A request has been submitted to the Legislative Service Bureau to draft a bill to increase the voluntary light motor vehicle registration fee. This change would create a new grant program for trail development, maintenance, and rehabilitation and help state parks meet their maintenance and operation needs.

The proposal would increase the voluntary light motor vehicle registration fee to state parks from $6 to $10. Of that increase, $1.75 would create a new grant program administered by Fish, Wildlife & Parks for trails and associated recreation facilities similar to the Recreational Trails grant program. In addition, $1.75 of the increase would be for the maintenance and operation of state parks, 25 cents for fishing access sites and 25 cents for Virginia and Nevada City Heritage sites.

The largest source of current trails funding in Montana comes from the Recreational Trails Program, a federal program. This program has guarantees for motorized and non-motorized trails. These funds are not secure and subject to elimination. Other trails funding sources come from OHV and snowmobile registrations and a small amount of the state gas tax refunded to both the OHV and snowmobile programs. The state invests virtually no state money for non-motorized trails.

The current $6 fee is the largest source of funding for Montana’s 55 state parks and helps state parks with maintenance and operation. State parks deferred maintenance backlog now exceeds $22 million. Small amounts also help support fishing access sites ($0.25) and Virginia and Nevada City Heritage sites ($0.38).

The $1.75 state trails grant program would be available to communities, counties, reservations, school districts, clubs and associations, state and federal agencies. The recommendation is that it would be administered using the same application process, forms and guidelines for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The State Trails Advisory Committee that currently advises on RTP awards would serve that purpose with the new program. The same categories as RTP would apply. Grants could include new trail construction, rehabilitation and/or maintenance of existing trails, trail head facilities including bridges, fencing, parking, bathrooms/latrines, picnic shelters, interpretation, trail signs, and trail head invasive weed control and winter trail grooming.

We will keep you posted on the status of this proposal and we will need your support when it is introduced by talking with your legislators and showing up at committee meetings at the Capitol. We hope that the future of all trails in Montana will vastly improve with action by the 2019 legislative session!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Sponsor</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Land Management - Butte Field Office</td>
<td>Trail Steward</td>
<td>$14,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Trail Vehicle Association (CTVA)</td>
<td>Single Track Re-Route</td>
<td>$6,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association</td>
<td>On the Right Trail Ethics &amp; Education Program</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USFS Bitterroot National Forest</td>
<td>Darby Ranger District -- Track the Tread Trail Steward</td>
<td>$14,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>USFS Custer Gallatin National Forest</td>
<td>Bozeman Ranger District Trail Steward Program</td>
<td>$14,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>USFS Custer Gallatin National Forest</td>
<td>Beartooth Ranger District -- Trail Maintenance</td>
<td>$8,650.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>USFS Custer Gallatin National Forest</td>
<td>Yellowstone Ranger District -- Trail Maintenance on 28 Miles of Single Track Motorized Trails</td>
<td>$14,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>USFS Custer Gallatin National Forest</td>
<td>Hebgen Ranger District -- Trail Maintenance, Education, Safety &amp; Ethics Instruction</td>
<td>$14,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>USFS Helena National Forest</td>
<td>Helena and Townsend Ranger Districts OHV Trail Steward Program</td>
<td>$14,000.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Amount Awarded $119,350.00
State Gas Tax for Off-Highway Vehicle and Snowmobile Programs Needs Your Support

By Bob Walker, Editor

Representative Kerry White has drafted two bills for consideration by the 2019 session of the Montana Legislature to increase the amounts of current state gas tax refunded to the state’s OHV and snowmobile programs! Representative White’s bills would increase the refund to the state OHV program from 1/8 of 1% to 23/50 of 1%, nearly a four-fold increase, and to the state snowmobile program from 15/28 of 1% to 9/10 of 1%! These increased amounts are supported by studies published by the University of Montana’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research. For clarification, these bills would not increase the state gas tax but transfer larger amounts currently collected to the two programs.

It is important to point out that this gas tax returned to the off-highway vehicle (OHV) and snowmobile programs is for gas used in those machines off maintained roads! The gas tax authorized to the OHV program has not increased since 1991 and since 1995 for snowmobiles! The number of registered machines has increased exponentially in that time period.

A clear need exists for this increase in state tax funds to the OHV program. In FY 2018, applications for OHV grant funds totaled $185,000 while only $110,000 was available. Several valuable projects were not included in applications due to the small amount available.

Examples include expanding the regional OHV trail maintenance program for an additional cost of $180,000 per year. Currently one single grant to the Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association allows them to contract with a trail builder-to maintain and rehabilitate OHV trails on four national forests. The need for this type of work is statewide. As an important point, 99% of OHV trails exist on U.S. Forest Service and BLM managed properties. Grants on or to federal agencies for OHV projects require the cooperation with and support from an OHV club!

Also there is a dire need for expansion of the OHV On the Right Trail Ethics Education Program at an additional cost of $50,000 per year and development of quality OHV route maps totaling an additional $50,000 per year.

A clear need also exists for this increase in state gas tax funds to the snowmobile program! In FY 2016-2017, Fish, Wildlife & Parks received applications from 25 dedicated snowmobile clubs totaling $581,000 but the amount available for grants was $429,204. At the same time these clubs invested $550,339 of their own club money and value of volunteer labor to help maintain 4,000 miles of safe and quality winter trails.

Snowmobile trail groomers maintain quality and safe snowmobile trails for all types of winter recreational activities. Most machines needed for grooming in the 195 HP power range and above now cost in excess of $250,000. FWP, with input from the citizen snowmobile advisory committee, prioritizes and purchase used machines to attempt to meet the need and lease them to snowmobile clubs. Unfortunately with funds currently available, the snowmobile program can’t adequately maintain an aging fleet of groomers!

The state OHV and snowmobile programs are administered by Fish, Wildlife & Parks which relies on citizen’s advisory committees to recommend grants for both programs.

MTVRA will keep you posted on the progress of these two important bills. When the time comes and more information is available, please make it a point to contact your legislators and convince them of the importance of these two bills and the positive changes they will create!

A big MTVRA thank you to these BUSINESS MEMBERS
JOIN THE  MTVRA TODAY!

Application for membership in the Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association

Date _________________________
Member Type:
Individual ____________ $22.00
Family ______________ 36.00
Business ______________ 55.00
Organization ___________ 100.00
(Includes $4 individual, $8 family, $15 business for the legal defense fund)
Make checks payable to
MTVRA
P.O. Box 2884
Great Falls, MT 59403

Name _______________________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________________
City ____________________State  ___________________Zip _________________
Phone __________________________ AMA# ______________
E-mail _______________________________________________________________

Our Mission
“To create a positive future for Montana off-highway vehicle recreation by creating an ongoing communications forum through which OHV enthusiasts and organizations can share information and experiences; participate in educational opportunities; build partnerships with land managers, land owners, and supporters; and become partners in protecting, promoting and creating a positive image of OHV recreation.”

Additional money included for donations to the legal defense fund are greatly appreciated!