



California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc.

Over 50 years advocating for recreation

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
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Cc: Sierra National Forest
Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor dagould@fs.fed.us
Susan Burkindine, Project Administrator sburkindine@fs.fed.us
John Byas, Program Director jbyas@fs.fed.us

March 31, 2013

Re: USFS - Sierra National Forest Grant Application Reference # G12-02-35-L01

Dear Grant Committee:

These comments are submitted on behalf of the California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC) and its membership. CA4WDC represents clubs and individuals within the State of California that are part of the community of four-wheel drive enthusiasts. Many of our members and supporters live in and/or recreate in the area covered by the *Sierra National Forest Grant Application # G12-02-35-L01*. This document shall not supplant the rights of other CA4WDC agents and organizational or individual members from submitting their own comments and the agency should consider and appropriately respond to all comments received to this proposed grant.

While the main focus of CA4WDC is to protect, promote, and provide for motorized recreation opportunities on public and private lands, many of our members participate in multiple forms of recreation; including but not limited to hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, bicycle riding, and gem and mineral collection.

We recognize the positive health and social benefits that can be achieved through outdoor activities. We also recognize that motorized recreation provides the small business owners in the local communities a significant financial stimulus. And, our members are directly affected by management decisions concerning public land use.

Our members subscribe to the concepts of: 1) public access to public lands for their children and grandchildren; 2) condition and safety of the environment; and 3) sharing our natural heritage. The general public desires access to public lands now and for future generations. Limiting access today deprives our children the opportunity to view the many natural wonders of public lands. The general public is deeply concerned about the condition of the environment and personal safety. They desire wildlife available for viewing and scenic vistas to enjoy. They also want to feel safe while enjoying these natural wonders. Lastly, the public desires to share



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the natural heritage with friends and family today as well as in the future. How can our children learn and appreciate our natural heritage when native species are allowed to deteriorate and historic routes are routinely blocked or eradicated from existence?

CA4WDC supports the concept of managed recreation, especially recreation off of paved or gravel roads, is the leading growth in visitors to public lands. CA4WDC supports the Sierra National Forests law enforcement program emphasizing compliance through education and awareness. Law enforcement personnel work with OHV recreation staff and over 200 volunteers to provide year-round education and enforcement on the SNF. Many of our members are volunteers in these efforts.

There are four large (350 to 500 visitors each) motorized recreation events under special use permit hosted by local OHV organizations during the summer months that would benefit from and additional law enforcement presence. CA4WDC hosts one of these events and our member clubs host two others and often no participants cause problems and we look to law enforcement to help ensure OHV operators are staying on the designated trail and to prevent alcohol related injuries or accidents. The local OHV organizations including CA4WDC and its member clubs provide positive input and thanks for law enforcement patrols during large group special use events.

For these reasons CA4WDC would like to ask that this grant be funded fully to enhance the recreational experience in this popular area.

CA4WDC appreciates the opportunity to comment on this grant request made by the Sierra National Forest. CA4WDC is eager to assist land managers and we hope these comments have been helpful in the importance of this grant to our members and member clubs. If addition information is required please do not hesitate to contact Steve Egbert at (559) 936-3030.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Egbert".

Steve Egbert
President, CA4WDC