



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Diane Ross-Leech, *Chair*
Kathleen Anderson, *Vice Chair*
Shaun Flanigan
Tom Lemmon
Nicholas Mueller
Edward Patrovsky
Roger Salazar
Patricia Ureña

August 6, 2026

Mr. Jonathan Cook-Fisher, Forest Supervisor
Tahoe National Forest

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear District Ranger Cook-Fisher:

We write in our capacity as Commissioners on the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission and Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Rubicon Trail to express our concerns about the Tahoe National Forest's proposed reroute of a portion of the Rubicon Trail and the issues that may arise as a result of carrying it out.

We had an opportunity to tour the reroute location on July 12, 2026, and on August 5, 2026, and walked through the staked out planned realignment with interested parties.

These trips, combined with your welcome participation and presentation at the OHMVR Commission meeting on June 17, 2026, have given us an eye-opening overview over the proposed project. As you know, the Rubicon Trail is one of California's most iconic and nationally recognized off-highway vehicle recreation assets, and any proposed projects affecting the trail is going to naturally generate a high level of public participation, input, and scrutiny.

Based on our limited observations, we have concerns over the quality of the soil where the reroute is scheduled to take place, the erosion that may result and the wetlands adjacent to the proposed reroute in several areas.

We believe that it would benefit all members of the public and stakeholders to provide for additional and broader community engagement to take place before proceeding with the planned realignment

As you may know, the Commission established this ad hoc committee, led by Commissioner Lemmon and myself, with the purpose of creating a public forum where interested parties may engage in open discussion regarding Rubicon Trail operations and proposed projects. We would be happy to serve as a forum for additional community engagement or participate in your own community outreach efforts.

Mr. Jonathan Cook-Fisher
Page Two of Two
August 6, 2026

In addition, you and other forest service personnel have expressed commitment to keeping the Rubicon Trail open year-round for all users in perpetuity. We would welcome engagement to memorialize State and Federal commitment via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) toward the goal.

Sincerely,



Roger Salazar, Commissioner
OHMVR Commission



Tom Lemmon Commissioner
OHMVR Commission

cc: OHMVR Commission

Sarah Miggins, Deputy Director OHMVR Division

Callan Mc Laughlin, Chief OHMVR Division

John Brokaw, Tahoe National Forest

Chris Prince, Rubicon Soda Springs Inc.

Pearse Umlauf, Jeep Jamboree USA

Tim Green

Brian Veerkamp

Doug Veerkamp

Vickie Sanders

Alan Johnson, President, Rubicon Trail Foundation

Greg Castro, Vice President, Rubicon Trail Foundation

John Arenz, Director, Rubicon Trail Foundation

Del Albright, Founder, Friends of the Rubicon Trail; Founder, Rubicon Trail Foundation

Mike Barr, Barr Excavating