



UNITED FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATIONS INC.
AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
www.ufwda.org

UFWDA e-News April 2009

With the UFWDA annual meeting looming, the pressure is on to get award nominations, financial data and a host of other matters addressed.

Our flow of volunteers in and out of BOD roles continues and we regret the departure, for personal reasons, of Geraldine Grady, who had lifted our public relations profile in the short time she was on the BOD.

As a news item it is last on the list of articles, but the AAWDC-SA advice that an agreement has been reached on the co-regulation and management of 4x4 activities in South Africa, is certainly something to check out. It provides a basis perhaps for discussions elsewhere in the world about options for managing our recreational use of land.

Thank you to all those who responded to the endangered species decal offer with an e-mail address. UFWDA are currently working on getting those decals sent out and are looking for the most cost effective way to do so. We expect that they will be out by the end of the month.

For seating at the annual meeting, delegates are reminded to get their credentials sorted and ensure that their organization dues are paid. I'm not going to be in Texas this year, but hopefully economics will improve enough to get to the 2010 meeting.

Peter Vahry
UFWDA international vice-president

Headlines

- **Texas AGM and Wheel-in**
- **2009 BFG Outstanding Trails program.**
- **More Changes at UFWDA**
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Texas AGM and Wheel-in

The **UFWDA Annual General Meeting** will be held over 19 and 20 May 2009 at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Dallas, Texas.

The hotel is:
Dallas Best Western Hotel and Conference Center

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8051 LBJ Frwy, Dallas, Texas, 75251-1301, US
Phone: 972/680-3000 Fax: 972/680-3200
Toll Free Reservations: 800-780-7234

<http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do?propertyCode=44628>

United Four Wheel Drive Associations has a block of rooms and you will need to let the hotel know that you are attending the United Four Wheel Drive Associations meeting.

The hotel does allow for campers... you may stay in at the parking lot of the hotel. More information can be obtained from the UFWDA forum www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?board=63.0

The registration paperwork for the meeting is on our website www.ufwda.org

Don't forget that even if you're not attending, there are several UFWDA annual awards that require nominations right now! These include;

- **The Jack Edwards Memorial Award** for the organization judged to have best participated in UFWDA activities and supported the goals of UFWDA.
- **The Four Wheeler of the Year Award** to recognize on a national level achievements of individuals
- **The Environmental Four Wheeler of the Year Award** recognizing on a national level individual achievement.
- **The UFWDA Conservation Volunteer Award Program** to recognize activities that promote environmental stewardship.

These awards are not limited to just USA based members.

Send your nominations on the forms provided on the UFWDA forum www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?board=26.0

Immediately after the AGM there is the Texas Wheel-In at Barnwell Mountain and you can register online for that event http://www.ufwda.org/memberapps/wheel_in_2008.php

Barnwell Mountain is a great facility and we hope to see everyone at the event; it is definitely worth the trip! For those that are not familiar with Barnwell Mountain Recreation Area please check out the website at <http://www.barnwellmountainra.com/>

UFWDA, BFGoodrich, and Tread Lightly! team up again in 2009 for the Outstanding Trails program.

United Four Wheel Drive Associations (UFWDA) has again teamed up with BFGoodrich on the 2009 Outstanding Trails program. Due to the current economic climate, the program was reduced to include only two trails this year and adopted by two outstanding clubs and associations.

BFGoodrich, UFWDA and Tread Lightly! continue to identify some of the best trails in the country and give them national recognition with their Outstanding Trails program. It is not all about recognizing the trails, but also the work by local club members and association's to maintain these trails.

During the course of the program, which runs May through August, BFGoodrich Tires will be at club events associated with these trails and areas, to highlight the uniqueness of each location as well as educate off-road enthusiasts on the responsible use of each trail. Below is a closer look at each trail and corresponding event dates.

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- 1 **Barnwell Mountain Recreation Area (BMRA)** (May 9, 2009), This beautiful 1800 acre park located five miles north of Gilmer Texas is a shining example of what club members and volunteers can accomplish and has become one of the premier off-highway vehicle (OHV) parks in the United States. The park's facilities and trail systems were designed and constructed strictly for motorized off-road purposes by the all-volunteer membership and is mapped and rated with proper signage.
- 2 **The Fordyce Creek Trail** (August 8, 2009), Nestled in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the Fordyce Creek Trail has a rich history starting as an old wagon trail serving the 19th century mining town of Summit City at Meadow Lake, prior to evolving into the OHV trail it has become. The trail was lost for many years after the mines closed and is now accessible after many years of effort by a group of dedicated off-road enthusiasts. The trail has incredible high sierra beauty with five winch hills and four water crossings, ending at Meadow Lake, which is adjacent to Fordyce Lake.

"United Four Wheel Drive Associations is again proud to partner with BFGoodrich for the 2009 Outstanding Trails program. This program is a great opportunity for leaders in the four-wheel drive community to recognize enthusiasts and the impact they are making," said Todd Ockert, director of environmental affairs, UFWDA. "The Outstanding Trails program has recognized some great trails across the country and the enthusiasts who maintain those trails. United Four Wheel Drive Associations hopes to continue this partnership for years to come."

To help aid with costs associated with the trail's conservation efforts, BFGoodrich Tires will also present a grant to a selected off-road club at each trail event.

Both Tread Lightly! and UFWDA are non-profit organizations dedicated to responsible and ethical outdoor recreation. BFGoodrich Tires collaborated with these two groups to select the finest North American OHV trails, and will continue to work with these organizations on restoration and education initiatives. For general information, please contact:

Todd Ockert
Director of Environmental Affairs
559-904-0551
landuse@ufwda.org

More Changes at UFWDA

The current economic hardship is being felt by everyone in one way or another. This of course includes all of the stakeholders in UFWDA, including our members and supporting business members. Clearly, as in all businesses, this translates into a slow down and reduction in the revenue stream.

Probably two of the most significant costs to UFWDA are also its greatest assets, specifically the VOICE and our legislative attorney. The current edition of the Voice has been delayed due to these circumstances but in the meantime we look for a viable and more cost effective digital alternative to continue the important communication with our membership, while continuing to support our business members. In the near term we grow increasingly reliant on e-News and we need your help with that by asking your organizations to provide UFWDA with what email lists they might have and asking other members to subscribe to these e-News bulletins through the 'button' on www.ufwda.org.

Recognizing the current economic realities, our legislative attorney, Carla Boucher, suggested a change of arrangement to the Board. This change would result in Carla moving to working on a time and materials basis (hourly fee) from the longstanding monthly retainer arrangement that has been in place. This provides for some flexibility in cost to UFWDA, while providing Carla with the opportunity to do other client work as well as respond to the increasing demands on her personal time.

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The project that is underway now, is for the Board to work with Carla in establishing a process that allows her to budget her time and the Board to prioritize projects and work load. While the transition will be difficult, we are confident that we can define a solution that will be beneficial for both Carla and UFWDA while still providing access for our members to one of the finest land use advocates in the world.

Wayne Groom
UFWDA president

Meet The New Climate Czar and Stimulus Spending Roadblock: The Polar Bear

The U.S. House recently passed a provision that, if implemented, could subject every federal decision on activities involving air emissions to review and consultation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to prevent or mitigate against alleged global climate change.

Welcome to single biggest roadblock to efficient stimulus spending ... and to the new national climate czar ... the polar bear.



In essence, the listing of the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) allows activists groups at the national or local level to file lawsuits against virtually any activity in the 50 states, claiming that any release of greenhouse gases (GHG) contributes to global warming, which is melting the polar ice caps, which destroys polar bear habitat, which is now illegal under the Endangered Species Act.

If enacted, this action by Congress could open up an unprecedented Pandora's Box of government red tape.

It could bog down hundreds or even thousands of permits for stimulus-related projects. Even the *Washington Post* argues that it could essentially stymie many, if not most, of the projects in the federal stimulus package. Activities that require federal permits, licenses or authorizations could be subject to USFWS consultation requirements. This, in turn, will cause significant delays and could result in costly project modifications to mitigate impacts to the species or completely shut down a project.

For example, a single consultation on the listed Preble's mouse costs a single developer \$3 million in consultants, attorney fees and mitigation expenses. That company is also required to spend \$185,000 annually on monitoring for the mouse.

It also will give unelected federal bureaucrats the power to re-open previously issued federal permits or actions. And, it will give highly litigious environmental groups a pathway to force regulation by USFWS of GHG emissions in all 50 states -- despite the fact that Congress has yet to determine exactly how to proceed on climate change generally.

Citizens could face even more government red tape on actions on both public and private lands that could be construed to "take" listed species or their habitat under Section 9 of the ESA. "Take" is defined broadly to include even the modification of habitat.

All of these impacts will get passed on to consumers via higher prices and reduced economic opportunity and job creation. Low-income Americans will be the hardest hit.

In a *Roll Call* newspaper article published a year and a half ago, environmental groups acknowledged that the push for listing the polar bear as a threatened species was intended to regulate carbon emissions. *Roll Call* reported that such a listing would take the ESA into "uncharted territory" with wide ranging effects across the U.S. economy.

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From the *Roll Call* article: "This exact situation has never been consulted before, so it's an open question about what happens to proposals for major greenhouse gas emitters," said Andrew Wetzler, director of the Endangered Species Project for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "But since the principal threat identified was climate change, and the recovery plan has to be concrete, theoretically, the plan is going to have to address climate change."

[Click here to view the *Roll Call* article.](#)

All citizens want the polar bears to thrive, and there are numerous laws and regulations in place and international agreements to do just that. Polar bears have adapted to climate changes for thousands of years and they are currently managed in healthy numbers. In fact, the bears are currently at historic high population levels of two to three times the population of 30 years ago, with sustaining numbers between 21,000 and 25,000 species.

The Roundtable believes that any climate action plan should be debated and approved by the U.S. Congress, not put into practice on an ad-hoc basis by well-meaning but unelected bureaucrats. This is a policy that can and must be reversed.

Darrell Henry

Western Business Roundtable dhenry@westernroundtable.com

Cape Hatteras

The linked document below represents the Access side of the deliberations at Cape Hatteras.

As you may know, the negotiations ended with no consensus. The facilitators compiled a final report representing the administrative record of the committee proceedings and invited all committee members to file an addendum to their final report. The attached document represents the vision for ORV management of the seashore by those access groups named on the document. It is our hope that the NPS will utilize our addendum to draft their preferred alternative for a DEIS that is scheduled for release this fall.

Carla Boucher

UFWDA legislative attorney

<http://www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=2756.0>

<http://www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?action=dlattach;topic=2756.0;attach=1405>

For an alternative view... the environmentalist's document is now available too.
<http://islandfreepress.org/03.30.2009-CAHARegNegAddendum.pdf>

(It is extremely lacking in any persuasive arguments, and actually only regurgitates law and species information. Ed.)

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ONE TANK OF FUEL

Help UFWDA protect your 4x4 access!
 Donate the money equivalent of ONE TANK OF FUEL.
 FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IN YOUR CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

ONE TANK OF FUEL CAMPAIGN

Name _____

Club/Organization Name _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail address _____

Amount I would like to contribute:
 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 other \$ _____

Method of Payment: Check Enclosed (payable to UFWDA)
 Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Card

Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____

Please send contributions to United Four Wheel Drive Associations
 14525 SW Millikan Way #22622, Beaverton, OR 97005-2343
 or call 1-800-44UFWDA (448-3932) for credit card contributions.

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Rescue Tellico NOW

There is still an urgent need to take action to Rescue Tellico NOW! The Forest Service has told us what they want to do and it is incumbent on the OHV community to change their minds.

Background:

On Friday February 27, the USDA Forest Service rolled out the draft Environmental Assessment for the Upper Tellico OHV trail system. The OHV community has been extremely dismayed to learn that while there

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are 7 (there are only 6 alternatives) options the Forest Service is considering, The Forest Supervisor, Marisue Hilliard, made it very clear that her preferred alternative is to **CLOSE TELLICO**. While we know that this is completely unacceptable and will cause immediate and intense emotional reaction, we are asking that everyone maintain a level head and concentrate on what our task is now.

For more detail...

www.ufwda.org/news_view.php?id=144



Charter Organization proposal

There has been a suggestion from one of our long-time members that within the structure of UFWDA, there should be a mechanism for recognizing some of the long standing associations (organizations) and their continued contributions to UFWDA.

Many organizations are very proud of their long relationships with UFWDA and the suggestion is that there should be some formal recognition of that support for over 30 years; especially those in the 100% member roster category.

UFWDA will need help to research our records to identify those original member organizations who could be defined as 'Charter members' , using a window of perhaps the first six months of UFWDA existence. Charter membership recognition could extend to individuals too.

This is a process proposal that might be used to identify many loyal long time supporters of UFWDA, possibly even including businesses and would probably need the help of those long-time members to establish the time-lines. It would be another task for an already stretched UFWDA management, although it is very likely that somewhere out there, someone might volunteer to develop the concept in time for the 2010 annual meeting.

There is a topic area on the UFWDA forum... www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=2811

Land Use Activities

As you will have read earlier, the Barnwell Mountain Recreation area in Gilmer Texas (the site of the 2009 UFWDA Texas Wheel-in, in May) and Fordyce Creek trail in Northern California (home of the Cal4Wheel Sierra Trek event in August) are both great trails and well deserving of the recognition from BFG for their 2009 Outstanding Trails selection. It is a pleasure to work with BFG on these selections each year and attend these presentations. Please take the time to thank BFG for their continued support of this great program and UFWDA over the years.

Onto land use, we have some hard fights approaching this year. As we already know, the Omnibus public lands bill was passed, and signed by the President on 30 March. It is with great sorrow that we will lose access to over 2 million acres this year, along with the rivers that will be closed to recreation via the scenic

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and wild rivers added component. As we all know, most of those 2 million acres did not meet the original intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964, as being untouched by man. Many of these areas have old trails on them that were closed by the federal agencies in charge of them.

Other areas where we need help with letters, include the following:

Eldorado National Forest open house:

The Eldorado National Forest, located in northeast California, will be hosting open houses for each of their Ranger District offices. In April, the four Eldorado National Forest District Rangers will each host a day when people can drop in at their offices to talk about the designated travel system (see schedule below).

The Forest Service says each open house will highlight routes and opportunities located within the hosting Ranger's area of the Forest. The Placerville and Pacific District Rangers will host a joint open house for the convenience of people who travel Highway 50. The Amador and Georgetown District Rangers will each host their own open house.

Open House Schedule

Saturday, April 18, 2009 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Georgetown Ranger District
Georgetown Ranger Station
7600 Wentworth Springs Road
Georgetown, CA 95634

Saturday, April 18, 2009 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Amador Ranger District
Amador Ranger Station
(Includes areas north and south of Highway 88)
26820 Silver Drive
Pioneer, CA 95666

Saturday, April 25, 2009 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Placerville and Pacific Ranger Districts
(Includes areas from Loon Lake south to the Consumes River)
Placerville Ranger Station
4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709

Shoshone National Forest to Hold Forest Plan Revision Meetings

The Shoshone National Forest, located in northwest Wyoming, will resume public input on the revision of their Forest Plan. A new round of public meetings is scheduled during the month of April 2009, for Cody, Thermopolis, Dubois and Lander (See schedule below).

The focus of the meetings is to share the most recent version of the revision documents, talk about the changes, where they are in the revision process, discuss the current timeline and to answer any questions the public may have.

Forest plan revision meetings schedule:

Type of meeting	Date and time	Location
Government Cooperators Work Group meeting	Wednesday, April 22, 2009 9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Big Horn Federal 1701 Stampede Avenue Cody, WY

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Public meeting	Wednesday, April 22, 2009 6:00 to 8:30 pm	Big Horn Federal 1701 Stampede Avenue Cody, WY
Public meeting	Thursday, April 23, 2009 6:00 to 8:30 pm	Big Horn Federal 643 Broadway Thermopolis, WY
Public meeting	Wednesday, April 29, 2009 6:00 to 8:30 pm	Headwaters Art & Convention Center 17 Stalnaker Dubois, WY
Public meeting	Thursday, April 23, 2009 6:00 to 8:30 pm	Best Western Inn at Lander 260 Grandview Drive Lander, WY

For more information on the Forest Plan Revision, contact Bryan Armel at 307-578-5134, or visit their website at http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/shoshone/projects/planning/revision/revision_index.shtml.

RECREATIONAL GROUPS FILE TO ENTER UTAH DESERT LAWSUIT

WASHINGTON, DC - A coalition of recreational access groups moved today to join a lawsuit challenging Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans covering nearly seven million acres in Utah. The motion was filed by the Trails Preservation Alliance (TPA), Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO), and BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC), all trails-based, grassroots recreation advocacy groups. The lawsuit was filed by eleven preservationist groups, led by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Through the suit, the plaintiffs hope to have the BLM plans declared illegal and set aside, and ask the Court to issue an injunction preventing activities authorized by the plans until BLM issues new decisions complying with a host of federal statutes. The lands at issue are located in the BLM Moab, Price, and Vernal Field Offices, which include iconic destinations for all types of backcountry recreationists.

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Travel Management DEIS Available

The Forest Service (FS) has announced the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Motorized Vehicle Use on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, located in southwestern Oregon.

During a 45-day public comment period, the agency will conduct a series of open houses to review the environmental document, including maps and alternatives, to discuss the motorized route designation process and to seek public comments (see schedule below). This comment period ends May 11, 2009.

The DEIS discloses the environmental impacts associated with four alternatives including a proposed action that outlines future management of motorized vehicle travel on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The alternatives include the following:

- 3 Alternative 1 is a No Action alternative that reflects the Forest's current condition.
- 4 Alternative 2 is an alternative that would implement actions consistent with the Travel Management Rule with no change. This includes no change to the current system of National Forest System roads, trails and off-road vehicle areas.
- 5 Alternative 3 reflects the agency's Proposed Action to enact the Travel Management Rule and to reduce resource damage, user conflicts, and safety concerns.
- 6 Alternative 4 addresses additional resource concerns and user conflicts and proposes a reduction in motorized use over Alternative 3.

Copies of the document can be obtained by contacting one of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest's Ranger District or Forest Supervisor's Office. The DEIS and maps are also available on the Forest's website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/projects/travel/.

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Schedule of Open Houses

Monday, April 20, 2009 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Forest Service - Agness Guard Station
04156 Agness Road
Agness, Oregon

Saturday, April 25, 2009 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Grants Pass High School, The Commons
830 NE 9th Street
Grants Pass, Oregon

While comments may be submitted anytime during the analysis process, only those individuals and organizations who provide comments during the comment period are eligible to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215.

Mail and Hand Deliver Comments To:

USDA Forest Service,
Travel Management Team
645 Washington Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520

Email Comments To:

comments-pacificnorthwest-rogueriver-siskiyou@fs.fed.us

Put "**Motorized Travel DEIS**" in the subject line of e-mail comments. Acceptable formats are email message, MS Word (.doc), plain text (.txt), or rich text format (.rtf). Comments should include your name and address.

COMMENT DEADLINE IS MAY 1, 2009

If you have questions or need additional information about Motorized Vehicle Use on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, please contact either Steve Johnson (Interdisciplinary Team Leader) at 541-552-2900 or Patty Burel (Public Affairs Officer) at 541-618-2113.

The National Forests are hard at work with our tax dollars. Take the time to find out what they are doing, by visiting their main page here: <http://www.fs.fed.us/>. They also have a newsletter that you can have sent to you on a monthly basis too.

Just like in California where the state government raided the state's OHV fund of 90 million dollars, the Colorado legislature was considering the same thing. A request went out to email, send letters, or call some of the legislature members in Colorado to keep this from happening. It worked, as they left the money alone. Now, remember that California will have to repay the money from the OHV trust fund, as this is mandated by state law, so all is not lost on the California OHV trust fund money. It will be returned to the trust fund for future projects.

I know there are more DEIS's being completed out there, and if the land use managers for the local clubs and associations would email me at landuse@ufwda.org with the info, I would appreciate it. If you need any help or have concerns, please feel free to call or email me.

Todd Ockert
UFWDA land-use

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The Omnibus Lands Bill continued

A link from John Stewart.

[DISSECTING THE OMNIBUS LANDS BILL](#)

http://www.4x4wire.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=548:disecting-the-omnibus-lands-bill&catid=56:4x4-access-view&Itemid=86

Arizona Access

www.arizonaoffroaders.org



Thanks Rising Sun 4WD



Rising Sun 4WD Club of Colorado
PO Box 250175
Lakewood, CO 80226-0175

Mr Todd Ockert
UFWDA
14525 SW Millikan Way #22622
Beaverton, OR 97005-2343

Dear Todd,

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The Rising Sun 4 Wheel Drive Club of Colorado was founded in March 1981 as a Toyota Club. Most of our members live in the Denver Metro area, although we do have a few members scattered in the smaller towns of Colorado and a handful that live out of state. The Rising Sun 4 Wheel Drive Club of Colorado is a family orientated, conservation minded organization, devoted to the outdoors. We believe in protecting public lands for the public, and not from the public. We believe in trail preservation, Treading Lightly!, staying on designated trails and leaving the areas we visit cleaner than when we got there. We also have adopted several trails that we help maintain in partnership with the US Forest Service.

Rising Sun is a Chapter of The Toyota Land Cruiser Association (TCLA) and our club has the highest dues in the TCLA. That's because our dues include Membership in the Colorado Associations of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs and the United 4WD Associations. These great organizations provide legal, moral and personnel support in keeping the Lands we treasure open.

As a club, we sponsor Cruise Moab, a national TCLA event every year in Moab Utah. As part of this event we hold a raffle where all the proceeds are donated to important organizations like yours. After the event a committee gets together to develop recommendations on how the proceeds should be donated. The recommendation is then brought to the full club membership for discussion and approval. We want to let you know that UFWDA has been selected to receive \$1000.

Your organization is recognized for its integrity, dedication and spirit in supporting land use issues. On behalf of the entire Rising Sun 4WD Club, I want to thank you for your efforts.

Regards,

Ken Romer
President, Rising Sun 4x4 Club of Colorado

www.risingsun4x4club.org

SEMA 'On-line' Publications

SEMA has members from across the entire range of automotive suppliers and for the first time have made their 'catalogue' publicly available, by putting it online.

http://catalog.proemags.com/publication/78ff3ae6?fc_c=1254836x2829666x56221452

In another move to 'online', SEMA have just announced that their publication "SEMA News" is also now available.

<http://echo.bluehornet.com/ct/2863920:1497544685:m:1:57250367:F913CE7F4864D59AACA8BE4B490623DB>

AAWDC-SA Reports a Radical Shift in 4x4 Management

UFWDA congratulate the 4x4 interests in Southern Africa who in the face of threats of severe restrictions, came together and after several years of negotiation and consultation, a formal agreement has been signed with the South African government that is quite different from anywhere else at this time. A description of the agreement can be found on the UFWDA forum...

<http://www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=2814>

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e-news@ufwda.org

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