



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our ever-changing world continues to throw roadblocks in the way of our ability to enjoy our public lands. We have been working with the National Forest Service (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for most of our 50 years to keep our trails open and maintained. In the 1970s State Parks came into the picture when they took over the play areas in the Oceano/Oso Flaco Dunes then developed a whole series of SVRAs throughout the state. All during this time we had our friends from the anti-access groups always working to keep us off the public lands.

When the anti-access groups found they could not keep us off the public lands through the administrative process they began to file lawsuits and go to Congress to close areas by means of Wilderness Areas.

Here we are in 2008 still trying to protect our right to use OUR public lands working with the federal and state land use agencies, defending our use in court and trying to hold off Congress on more Wilderness Areas. We have been and will continue to fight these uphill battles. The battlefield is now changing on us, the State of California, by way of the Attorney General is suing the Forest Service to demand input into the issue of roads in federally designated roadless areas. Our tax dollars are being used to try to deny the public the use of existing roads on public lands.

Now, here is sit on May 1 with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deciding to get into the anti-access mode of action by pressuring the BLM to close the Clear Creek Management Area because the area does not meet the EPA guidelines for asbestos exposure. There will now be a two-year study to determine whether the area should remain closed or be opened back up to the public.

This is all ridiculous, as the area has been open to the public since the days of

the Indians mining for mercury, and now through at least 35 years (that I know of) OHV use. During this time I have not heard of one case of anyone dying due to asbestos exposure in the Clear Creek area.

If a study must be done it should be with the area open and conducted by monitoring those that use the area. This will never happen, as it is too simple for the EPA and BLM to understand.

I was asked again today because of the Clear Creek closure, "Why didn't Cal 4 Wheel see this coming?" Clear Creek, BLM, asbestos and EPA have been on the table for several years. We just did not know how long or when the EPA would make a decision. We had a discussion at the April Central District meeting that we knew a decision was coming, but all we could do was wait. Anyone who has used the Clear Creek area and is concerned about continued use knows that this is a constant battle and will probably always be a battle.

This fall we will all be going to the ballot box to elect a new President, one-third of the Senate and 435 Representatives. This does not even include State Senators or Assemblymen. It will be more important than ever to vote for candidates that will support OHV recreation on the public lands. The California League of Off Road Voters PAC will be coming out with an election guide of candidates that support OHV use. Our association will have this guide available and it is our hope that you look for the candidates in your area and make good selections that are OHV supporters.

## EVENTS

Molina, our annual event that is held at Clear Creek did quite well this year and is a good example of how important this area is to our members. I have been told that Molina 2009 will take place even if Clear Creek is not an option. We cannot let the BLM and EPA cancel this great event.

As you read this I will be on my way home from Hi Desert Round-Up. I hope to have seen many of you there. As fuel prices are going up and the economy seems to be going down this is the time the association needs you the most.

This year we are in court on the WEMO-NEMO desert lawsuit, we are petitioning to be interveners in the Jerry Brown Roadless lawsuit and may be in legal action on the Clear Creek closure. At the same time we do not know how the FS and BLM Travel Management plans will affect our OHV use. We are prepared to be in court on these plans if any of the plans are really bad for OHV use or if the anti-access crowd decides to use the courts to challenge the plans. For these reasons we need financial support from our members. This comes in two ways, supporting the fundraising events or by helping to bring in new members. We are only as strong as the support we get from the membership.

Sierra Trek 2008 will be at a new loca-

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## Moving?

Send your change of address to  
**CA4WDC, Inc., 3120 36th Ave.,  
Sacramento, CA 95824-2304** or  
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