

The *Advocate*

Winter 2020



Protecting Your Motorized Access to Public Lands



Advocate

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Mission

The Mission of *Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition* is to represent, assist, educate, and empower OHV recreationists in the protection and promotion of off-highway motorized recreation throughout Colorado. COHVCO advocates and promotes the responsible use and stewardship of our public lands and natural resources to preserve their aesthetic and recreational qualities for future generations.



For more information, visit www.cohvco.org or contact us at info@cohvco.org.

Purpose & Objectives

The purposes and objectives of COHVCO shall be to:

- unite into one statewide organization all persons, organizations and businesses with an interest in preserving and promoting OHV recreation.
- promote the safe and responsible use of OHVs.
- work with federal, state, and local governments, as well as other organizations in partnership as stewards of the land to prevent closure of existing OHV trails, routes, and roads, and to work toward construction of new OHV trails, routes and roads, including the reopening of closed routes on public lands.



Protecting Your Motorized Access to Public Lands



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Introduction

Ambassadors for the OHV Community

Matt Hiller, COHVCO Chairman

Since this is our first edition of 2020, I would take time to acknowledge the users and groups who support us from year to year. Whether you are out there joining or forming clubs, volunteering with OHV organizations, performing trail maintenance, or simply demonstrating responsible trail use and using proper trail etiquette, you are helping to form positive relationships and act as an ambassador for the OHV community.

Take a few minutes to browse this issue of the COHVCO Advocate. We've included some info on the start of the 2020 Legislative Session, land use news, and stories shared by COHVCO Directors and OHV community members like you.

If you enjoy what you have read and have something you'd like to share, such as an event or advertisement for your organization, or even an interesting story, contact me at chair@cohvco.org.

Thanks for being and active part of our OHV community, we look forward to representing you!

Legislation

2020 Legislative Session Underway

Jerry Abboud, COHVCO Executive Director & President

The 2020 legislative session started Wednesday, January 8th, at the Colorado State Capitol. Nearly 400 bills have already been submitted, including a number of items affecting OHVs. It's still early in the Session, but we will keep you informed of important developments.

Surplus Military vehicles

Jerry Abboud, COHVCO Executive Director & President

Some confusion still exists regarding legislation last year that categorized surplus Military Vehicles as OHVs. This did not allow for operation on roadways unless such roadways were open to off highway vehicles as last years bills defined those vehicles as OHVs.

This year new legislation was just introduced, HB20-1170 to allow for operation on roadways without additional requirements of a motor vehicle registration, emissions or roadworthiness. The bill still requires an OHV registration and a title.

Sponsors are:

Representative Stephen Humphrey

Mailing Address: 200 E Colfax, Rm 307, Denver, CO 80203

Capitol Phone: (303) 866-2943

E-mail: rephumphrey48@yahoo.com

Senator Vicki Marble

Mailing Address: 200 E Colfax, Rm 346, Denver, CO 80203

Capitol Phone: (303) 866-4876

E-mail: vicki.marble.senate@state.co.us

The Bill will be heard in House Transportation and Local Government. At the time of this publication, no date for a hearing has been set.

COHVCO will send alerts out if the bill continues in the process after publication of this article. If the bill dies, you will also be notified.

There is no need to contact the sponsors at this time. You can contact the members of the House Transportation and Local Government Committee with your support by email.

List of members: <http://leg.colorado.gov/committees/transportation-local-government/2020-regular-session>

Click on their name for more information.

Land Use

BLM Statewide OHV Action Planning Comes to Colorado

Jerry Abboud, COHVCO Executive Director & President

In 2014, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), partnered to develop a National Motorized Recreation Action Strategy. This was designed to help the BLM develop individual state action plans for providing high quality OHV opportunities and develop partnerships to help maintain those opportunities. The strategies will guide the BLM in future Resource Management Plans (RMP) and Travel Management Plans (TMP); however, the strategies are NOT part of a specific travel management plan.



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In developing these strategies, enthusiasts will have a chance to share thoughts on the following topics:

- *What activities are taking place on BLM managed lands?*
- *Where in general are OHV activities taking place?*
- *What experiences are you looking for on BLM managed lands?*
- *Where might these missing activities fit on BLM managed lands?*
- *What could the BLM do better to enhance your recreation experience?*

Thanks to funding from the BLM and management of the planning meetings and planning process by NOHVCC and working directly with COHVCO, Colorado can join those states who have already finished their planning. Read current plans created by other western states at <https://www.nohvcc.org/nohvcc-initiatives/blm>. It will help you to participate in the statewide planning session in your area.

BLM State OHV Action Plan meetings will be available shortly for western Colorado. Please check the COHVCO website and look for an email alert from COHVCO about the upcoming schedule in your email.

E-Bikes and the Motorized Community

Scott Jones, Esq., COHVCO Vice President

Recently there has been a lot of press and perceived agency action around the use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) federal public lands. There has also been a lot of conflict around this usage amongst the mechanized and non-motorized community. I wanted to share some thoughts on this from a motorized perspective. E-bikes are correctly designated as off-road motor vehicles under the relevant executive orders governing travel management issued by Presidents Nixon and Carter. These orders simply do not divide motors according to the type of motor. All motors are classified the same. The motorized community is not opposed to use of an e-bike on a motorized trail or route. Would we like to see a registration on them, that answer is yes but does not change our position on their use.

While there has been a ton of conflict between many users groups in the e-bike discussion, there is a huge amount of common ground that is being overlooked. The first common ground that is being overlooked is the fact that we need more trails in many areas. No one from the motorized community, e-bikes community or mtn bike community are going to argue that issue, it is the cornerstone of the e-bike discussion. Another common ground in the e-bike discussion would be the fact that the 1972 Executive Orders are simply out of date. The motorized community would simply love to see those updated as those orders are entirely repetitive to statutes that have been passed subsequently and introduce a lot of confusion into planning.

From the motorized perspective, there is also room for improvement in the discussion and process. This could not be more perfectly exemplified than by the recent issuance of an order by the Tahoe National Forest identifying 240 miles of e-bike trails. Many of these routes were placed on historically motorized routes and some were placed on non-motorized routes and no one was consulted before this decision was made. This was a pretty significant failure of process that was compounded by the fact that many users were told that the only e-bikes trails, meaning the historical usages of these routes were lost to their historic usages. Obviously this was frustrating. Last week the Tahoe was sued over this decision, and in my personal opinion has an uphill battle at best in defending the decision.

The Department of Interior has chosen an equally perplexing path with e-bikes with Secretarial Order 3376





On the Trail

Snowmobiling in Colorado: Make Sure You Know the Basics

Kristine James, COHVCO Director

Most of snowmobiling is all about being prepared and organized. Getting the rig ready, transportation, clothing, trail details, lodging (if necessary), and emergency readiness. So, let's start with the rig itself and go from there.

Types of Snowmobiles

Vehicle types vary depending on rider ability, terrain you plan to ride, and the length of your trip.

Trail: This is a basic snowmobile and would be great for beginners, with narrow frames and a smaller engine.

Touring: This type of snowmobile will be able to carry a passenger and have more comforts for longer distances.

Crossover: With the traction of the crossover, a rider is able to go on both the groomed trails and be able to go in the backcountry wilderness.

Utility: Working based riders are more apt to choose this type of rig due to the designed suspension, and for the wider length and width of the rigs.

Performance: As the name states, this rig is meant for a more performance-based riding with riders with experience to be able to handle the higher speeds and acceleration.

Mountain: And finally, the rig that fits the extreme adventure seekers of the Rockies. This type of snowmobile is designed to ascend the slopes by having a narrower frame and longer lugs in the tracks.

Colorado Laws

"Parks and Wildlife Commission by Article 14 of Title 33, C.R.S." should be reviewed.

- #400 – Registration Information Required on Application
- #401 – Display of Validation Decal
- #402 – Safety Equipment * (Colorado, 2016)



Hazards: As with driving, riding a snowmobile or any motorized rig is very dangerous while you've been drinking – **don't do this, please!**

Get to Know the Trail

- The snow can cover and hide obstacles that would otherwise be easy to see and maneuver around. Knowing the trail and researching the area is important.
- If there is a chance there may be ice, please go around. So many conditions can alter the integrity of the ice and its ability to sustain the weight of the machine, gear, and driver.
- Watch the weather and review the trails before you begin your adventure.

Plan Ahead

As in any adventure, it's best to have more than one person or rig on a ride, and if you really think it's wise to go alone at least let someone know your plans for the trip. Most importantly being the ETA back to wherever your base camp may be located.

Snowmobile Maintenance

Making sure the rig is well maintained can determine if the trip will be a success or not. Simple items, such as checking the fluids (oil, brake fluid, and coolant), motor, skis, and spark plugs are a great and simple task. Also making sure that the lights and blinkers are all working and doing a test drive to ensure the mechanisms are all functioning and working properly.

Trailer Maintenance

- Check the trailer lights to make sure the wiring is still functioning properly.
- The bed of the trailer should be in good condition.
- Tires on the trailer are at the correct PSI for winter conditions.
- Make sure the hitch is appropriate for the vehicle towing, this may seem simple, but it's sometimes overlooked.

Gear Up

Gear for being prepared:

- First-aid kit
- Emergency supplies:
 - Knife
 - Extra fuel
 - Flares
 - GPS beacons (in case of an avalanche or getting lost)
 - Flashlight and batteries
 - Extra food
 - Waterproof matches
 - Compass and maps (you can't always rely on your phone)
- Protective gear:
 - Goggles
 - Reflective clothing
 - Helmet that will meet the DOT standards

Now, I'm just saying, since this is the time of year we all eat a little more than we would normally (large meals, treats, eating out, gifted foods) making sure all of the gear still fits before the morning of the trip, is a great way to guarantee a better adventure. 😊

I hope you are able to go outside and enjoy this beautiful time of year!

*Colorado, S. o. (2016, March 9). CHAPTER P-4 -SNOWMOBILE REGULATIONS INDEX. Retrieved from Colorado Parks & Wildlife: <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/RulesRegs/Regulations/ChP04.pdf>



Off-Road Vehicles

John Davenport, COHVCO Director



Since the very beginning of the motor vehicle, there has been an over whelming desire to travel where no man has gone before. For over a hundred years, off-road vehicles have been made for a specific purpose or purely for recreational use.

There are several types of off-road vehicles, some which are used on a variety of terrain, others which are terrain-specific. Common off-road vehicles include: 4-Wheel drive trucks; SUVs (sport-utility vehicles); ATVs (all-terrain vehicles); UTVs (utility-terrain vehicles); and Dirt Bikes. Off road vehicles which are more terrain or use-specific include: sand rails, dune buggies, rock crawlers, monster trucks, snowmobiles, military vehicles, amphibious or dual-terrain vehicles, and hover crafts.

History

Adolphe Keggresse, a Russian engineer, is credited with the first application of retrofitting a standard vehicle for off-road travel in the early 1900s for the Russian military. The Keggresse track, using a flexible rubber tract system was modified to a standard vehicle for off-road travel. The first US four-wheel drive vehicle was built in 1907 by the Four-Wheel Drive Auto Company (FWD). The company was formed by Zachow and Besserlich in Clintonville Wis. Some 16,000 FWD Model B trucks were built for the British and American armies during World War I – about half by FWD and the rest by other licensed manufacturers. Only about 20% of the trucks built were four-wheel drives, but the 4x4s were more often on the front lines. The most popular off-road vehicle--the Jeep--was developed for wartime use but later was redeveloped for civilian use and serves as the bedrock of off-roading as a recreational vehicle. The first jeep prototype by Bantam BRC which is now known as the “Original Jeep” went into construction in 1941.



Evolution



The US Army Jeeps had big, deeply treaded tires that made it easy for them to traverse the North American landscapes, which made them popular as utility vehicles. Soon, the public use of Jeeps for off-road utilities and by hobbyists became a popular US industry. And as the market swelled, so did the production of better and more comfortable off-road vehicles, i.e. Chevy, Dodge, Ford, GMC, Hummer, Jeep, Nissan, Land Rover, Suzuki, and Toyota just to mention those that I know.

The motorized vehicles industry, according to Department of Commerce in 2016, was a \$60 billion industry, more than the boating/fishing, hunting/shooting/trapping, equestrian, and other conventional outdoor actives combined.

Stay tuned for history and evolution of ATVs, UTVs, Dirt Bikes, Snowmobiles and maybe even E-Bikes.

Advocate

Board Notes

New to the Board

Kristine James, COHVCO Director

I would like to introduce myself to everyone as the newest board member to COHVCO and the state association representative to CO4WDA. I also would like to express how much I appreciate this opportunity and how grateful I am to be able to be a part of something so important with how it affects each one of us in the OHV Community.

So what is COHVCO about?

COHVCO is here to represent, assist, educate, and empower OHV and 4wds enthusiasts in protecting and promoting safe off-highway motorized recreation throughout Colorado. (COHVCO, 2019)

CO4WDA also promotes cooperation, friendship and inter-communications among member clubs, liaises with other motorized recreation organizations, and brings forth a united voice and effort to benefit our clubs and members. (Mission and Core Objectives, 2019)

Now for what I bring to COHVCO as a board member and to CO4WDA as the State Association Representative of COHVCO, and to you: I grew up in a small town in northern Minnesota riding snowmobiles, playing around with four-wheelers, and mudding in whatever vehicle I was driving.

As I grew older business drew me outside of the northern country to the southern states. This is where I met my husband and was introduced to a foreign world where vehicles could actually drive up rocks!!! They called it, 'Rock Crawling'!! This concept was mind-blowing to me because the most I had accomplished was making it through muddy off-road trails without getting stuck.

As we fast forward 8 years, I now have my own dedicated rock crawler that I have worked on myself and have been a part of any alterations that my Jeep, 'Tiger Monkey', has been through. With the assistance of my amazing husband, who has been wheeling for 30+ years now, and has taught me many things he's learned over time. He's wheeled all along the East coast to now the Southwest, and of course CO.

Along with teaching me how to wheel various terrains, he has taught me what is involved with respecting the land that we rely on. He has also explained to me what happens, from experience, when we don't support and petition to keep our lands open. He was part of the organization trying to keep a large part of Tellico OHV area open in TN/NC. They didn't get the support needed from the off-road communities, or the local community, because no one believed these lands they wheeled would ever be shut down and closed. Well, they were

wrong and sadly the entire area was closed. It was the equivalent of closing Moab to OHV use. Eleven years later, in that region there are very few trails available to wheel, and of those many are only pay-to-play areas.

The bottom line is: If we don't respect our land, protect it, and proactively defend it for multiple use recreation, these trails will get closed.

So, with a marketing and business background, I bring to you a different perspective, but also a kindred spirit for the love for this off-road recreation we all enjoy. Please let me know how I can represent you, your clubs, and OHV sports in general to these organizations so your voice can be recognized. My goal is to bring additional support to the full-sized community and to all the different aspects of OHV recreation, so that everyone will be able to enjoy off-highway trails now and in the future.

We're All in this Together!

Matt Hiller, COHVCO Chairman



In my heart, I've always been a single track guy, it was my passion and what I put my energy into. I ran a large club and had weekly planned rides. If it involved 2 wheels, I was there! I've hosted rallies and introduced a bunch of my friends to extreme enduro riding....or as my friends called it a "Matt's ride". They all came to know that if I said they would be fine, they were in for a life changing experience. Nobody ever died, but we did all have a ton of great stories! *Do you know how hard it is to keep a fire going with tumble weeds to make sure the hurt rider is comfortable? Trust me, no matter how cold it was, you were sweating!* I would do everything with my riding buddies, and do anything for them. Some of my most important friendships came from my two-wheeled family.



I wasn't only a two-wheel guy, though. Even when I was hurt, I was never a guy who wanted to stay home. I built a '91 Toyota pickup to explore the back country. It was great! I found that same rush I got from riding, when I cleared a challenge on the trail in my truck. I started making some new friends in the 4x4 community. They were as tight with each other as my two-wheel family. As I got older, I spent more time wheeling than I expected. It grew to become as important to me as riding, making it hard to decide which group I would spend my weekends with.



It was on one of the 4x4 trips that I met my wife. It was great to meet someone who was also passionate about off-roading, but now we spent more time on 4x4 trips. We joined Mile-Hi Jeep Club (MHJC) and quickly became active volunteers in the organization. I got involved with the Land Use Committee and began to expand my knowledge beyond trail building and maintenance to advocacy. I worked hard to make the Land Use Committee stronger and enable us to complete more projects.



We were successful in bringing land use projects to All-4-Fun, MHJC's week-long, annual event. Our all-volunteer committee of event attendees completed over 1200 manhours of trail maintenance during 2015 event.

It was becoming harder to find time for dirt biking, and we couldn't get either group, dirt-bike or 4x4, interested in interacting with each other. I started to notice that what I was learning about land advocacy, applied to both the dirt bike and 4x4 groups, *but they seemed like they were in opposition*. It was during this time that I first met Jerry Abboud and Scott Jones, and I was starting to see the bigger picture.



My focus was still not broad enough, I was looking out five feet, when I needed to look out five hundred feet to the five-mile view. I was invited onto the COHVCO Board and quickly worked my way up into the Chairman position. I have since been introduced to *all five* of user groups we represent. I participated in a SXS/ATV rally, went on snowmobile trips, and became a member of a local snowmobile group and Colorado Snowmobile Association (CSA).



I've now attended more club and organization meetings than I can count, and have had the privilege to speak with some great individuals involved in land use. I'm continuing to branch out farther to become a state partner with NOHVCC, and help with One Voice and ORBA.

I'm working all the time now with many user groups, but one thing seems to come up so often. We need to work together, within our communities, and across the various OHV groups. We might all use different modes of transportation, and come from different backgrounds, but the bottom line is that we all believe strongly in our sports and we all want to continue to enjoy our public lands. So, join the clubs and associations which represent your sport, get involved with organizations that help multiple sports. Be willing to put in the work and when needed, make your voice heard. And don't forget...when you see other drivers or riders out on the trail, be courteous and give them a friendly wave. *We are all into this together!*

Interested getting involved with COHVCO? Join us, donate, volunteer with us, or simply share your opinions with us about what is it that makes your access important to you. Send an e-mail to chair@cohvco.org. If you're interested in attending our monthly COHVCO Board meeting, our meetings are open. See www.cohvco.org/calendar for details.

Ford v Ferrari.....

An Opportunity to Remember Why You Love Motorized Sport

Keith Douglas, COHVCO Director

This is not your typical article for a COHVCO Advocate. It is about what got me here, and will hopefully remind you about what got you here enjoying motorized activities as well. What was it about the past that makes you smile when you hear the rumble of a V8, the BRAAAPPPP of a two-stroke, or the whine of a turbo?

I recently saw the movie Ford v Ferrari and it reminded me of a lot of the things that got me here. I was born in 1950 just outside Cleveland, Ohio. Not Detroit, but close enough. The next town over had a Ford engine plant and other auto industry based jobs that fed the Big Three up in Detroit with some of the parts and steel they needed to make their wonderful machines.

I can remember seeing the hot rods around town that the guys who had come back from World War II and Korea had. Cool cars that made a lot of noise, didn't have the best paint jobs, and smelled of burning oil because they leaked a lot of oil. Motorcycles like Harley, BSA, Greeves, and Bultaco. No Japanese bikes; they didn't show up till the early sixties and were small. "You meet the nicest people on a Honda" was the advertising slogan I remember. I got a go-kart at 12 and my neighbor John and I drove up and down the street for hours. The neighbors never complained. It was a fun time to grow up.

In probably early 1966 a friend's older brother got out of the service and traded his '63 Corvette for a 289 Mustang Fastback. We thought he was nuts. Everyone loved the new Mustangs, but trade a Corvette for one? I guess I didn't realize at the time, but maybe I was a Chevy guy.

But then all us motorheads who weren't quite 16 and able to drive heard about Ford and something called the GT40. We read about it in magazines and how Ford wanted to win over the world of auto racing. It was going to be on ABC Wide World of Sports. Car racing was never on TV. What the heck was goin' on?

So fast forward more than 50 years. You grew up, moved multiple times, had kids, your kids had kids..... hell, you even went to your 50th high school reunion, and then you hear about the movie Ford v Ferrari.

The movie is so much more than just car racing. It reminds you about the days before computers. Points, carburetors, times when cubic inches were everything and sloppy 3 and 4 speed transmissions that slipped so bad you smelled the burn. A time when guys could invent stuff in their garage and be the new fast kid in town or around the world. It reminded me about a time of my life where I fell in love with anything that had

wheels, made a lot of noise, and could scare the crap out of me.

The movie tells you a lot about bigger than life characters who are legends in the sport. But most of all it tells a story about a bunch of guys who loved what they did so much that they would put everything on the line to do it for another day. It reminded me about why I have always loved motors and going fast.

Most of my racing and riding has been off-road in the dirt. When I moved to Colorado in the 70s it was a huge playground where a guy could ride his dirt bike all day without backtracking. A time when the trails to explore seemed unlimited. As time went on I transitioned to Jeeps and side by sides and those trails have slowly become less unlimited.

Today I volunteer for COHVCO to keep those trails available for motorized use because I want future generations to experience what I have been fortunate to experience. Both my son and daughter have learned to love motorized activities. I just became a grandfather, and the adventures in a motorized vehicle in the woods and mountains for the pure joy of it is something I want to share with my grandson.

So this article is a little different than others. But the movie Ford v Ferrari reminded me of why I have loved motorized mechanical things for so many years and want it to continue. Hopefully the movie will remind you of why you enjoy our sport as well. And please help COHVCO and other organizations with your time, money, and passion to keep what we love to do available for those younger generations who might never know what points are, might never enjoy the sweet smell of Castrol two-stroke oil, and will definitely never get to see three Ford GT40s cross a finish line in France together on a grainy black and white TV when they were weeks away from getting their driver's license for the first time in 1966.

See the movie.....and help "Save Our Sport" by supporting COHVCO today.





Events

2019 Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Jud Barlow, the winner of the 2019 Raffle vehicle!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2019 Raffle and purchased tickets. Thank you also go out to Kawasaki for donating the vehicle, and for Kicker Monster Truck event for hosting this year's drawing. With your support we can continue to work together to keep OHV trails open!



Special Thanks to Kawasaki!



This raffle is the keystone of our annual fund raising. We cannot thank Kawasaki, Chris Fletcher and the Colorado Kawasaki dealers enough for supporting us and donating our 2019 Raffle vehicle, a **Kawasaki USA 2019 Tyrex4 LE**.

The efforts of these dealers show their commitment to keep public lands accessible for OHV users. If you are looking for a new ride or just looking to spruce up the ol' faithful one, please stop by and support the dealers that support us!

*All Terrain Motorsports Inc.
Apex Sports
Davis Service Center
Fay Myers Motorcycle World
Fremont Motorsports
Fun Center Cycles
G-Force Powersports
Grand Prix Motorsports
Horizon Motorsports of Colorado
Integra Motorsports
Mesa Verde Motorsports
MotoAdventure Kawasaki Beta
Outdoor Depot, LLC
Power World
Rocky Mountain Cycle Plaza
Rocky Mountain Cycle Plaza Pueblo
Rocky Mountain Kawasaki
Steamboat Powersports
Sun Enterprises
Vickery Motorsports*

COHVCO is the only statewide organization that has both legal experts and lobbyists protecting access to public lands for motorized recreation.

Join or donate today!



www.cohvco.org

Through legislation, COHVCO created the Off Highway Recreation Fund that has contributed \$100M in grants, so you can enjoy your OHV experience.

With the growing popularity of UTVs, focus on our sport by the opposition is also on the rise. In order to continue protecting your access to public lands, we need your support.

COHVCO members receive regular alerts about active issues in the OHV community. Whenever you are confronted with an OHV issue, you can contact COHVCO for assistance.

Stay up to date with the latest happenings by following us on Facebook and watch for our periodic electronic newsletters. We welcome support from OHV enthusiasts all over the country who love what Colorado has to offer!