



The purpose of VORA is to work cooperatively to create and sustain environmentally compatible land use opportunities for off-highway recreation vehicles, and to promote responsible recreation for all generations.

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VORA ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on
November 5, 2009 @6:00 PM
 at the VASA Offices
14 Don Camp Drive Barre, Vt.
 Join us for a discussion on the
 status of projects, goals and
 the Election of Officers.



ANR PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

VASA, through continued persistence and lobbying, has convinced the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to consider a rule change allowing the Secretary of the ANR the ability to designate trails on state lands for ATV use. On June 15, 2009 the ANR held a public meeting in Montpelier to take comments on the proposed rule change. More than 250 people attended this public meeting and the vast majority spoke in support of the rule change. There was some very entertaining theatrics from several anti-access organizations but overall the meeting was very positive and supportive of the rule change.



This proposed rule change is really about sharing our natural resources in a respectful and responsible manner with other recreational users. Both VORA and VASA are supportive of other types of recreational uses on state lands and the proposed rule change will help to balance the needs of all recreational users and not just the non-

motorized community. No single user group should be able to dictate public policy regarding their preferred type of recreation on our state lands. Our neighboring states of New Hampshire, Maine and New York have recognized this and have implemented off-highway motorized recreation programs. For many years, Massachusetts

has allowed motorized recreation in their state forests and have signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) with local clubs to help with maintenance efforts. They fully understand the importance and benefits of providing safe and legal areas to ride. When responsible motorized recreation programs are implemented, the

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CLASS IV AND ANCIENT ROADS WORKSHOP

On May 7th, VORA held an Ancient and Class IV Roads Workshop with other trail user groups in Montpelier. The main focus of this workshop was to organize the efforts between the different user groups who all share common interests in protecting and keeping these public rights-of-way open for

recreation. Volunteers from these organizations have stepped forward to assist in working with individual towns and in gathering information. This workshop also gave up to date legislative information, outlined a data gathering process and helped to develop partnerships with municipalities

and among the different user groups. If you'd like to help and adopt a town, please contact Peter Hawks, VORA Land Use Committee Chair at: randoneeman@yahoo.com

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

VORA is currently working with the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) to implement the US Forest Service (USFS) Travel Management Rule. This rule requires all national forests to designate and map all OHV routes and when completed, no OHV use will be allowed except on the designated routes. Currently

there are no designated routes on the GMNF. The Bennington Trail Conservancy is in the process of conducting a trail inventory of existing trails on the Manchester Ranger District, specifically south of Route 9. Once completed this information will be used to evaluate the feasibility of establishing new OHV routes. According to the GMNF Forest Plan there are other areas throughout the forest that have generally been identified and may be suitable for OHV routes pending further investigation. VORA is coordinating these efforts with support from VASA, the Cycle Conservation Club of VT, the Green Moun-

tain Plonkers, Montshire Trailriders and the Blue Ribbon Coalition. It is VORA's intent to continue to work with the GMNF to evaluate the feasibility of adding OHV routes throughout the forest where practicable. On federal lands we are all considered OHV's and there is no differentiation between ATV or OHM. If you know of any existing OHV routes or connections and would like to assist with this evaluation, please contact us at: vtvora.org or 802-477-5075. For reference, a forest wide road map is available here http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/greenmountain/images/GMNF_MVUM_2009.pdf



“On federal lands we are all considered OHV’s and there is no differentiation between ATV or OHM. “

BERLIN TRAIL RESTORATION

VORA completed it's first trail restoration project on September 26 and 27th in Berlin. Previously, we conducted a trail inventory/analysis and partnered with the Berlin Conservation Commission to apply for and receive an RTP grant (Recreational Trail Program). After a very wet summer, the weather finally cooperated long enough to dry out the trail and allow us to begin work. Volunteers from the Montshire Trail Riders, CCC of VT, the VT Jeep Association (VJA) and the Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) all donated their time and expertise to make this project a success. This years efforts consisted of replacing an existing bridge, creating and improving water bars, improving the existing drainage patterns and installing erosion control measures. Next Spring we'll return and finish restoration of the remaining portions of the trail. Thanks go out to all the volunteers who helped out on both days Special thanks to Jared Hosfros

and CRW Woods Corp. for donating the use of a Volvo ECR88 excavator, Paul Torrey and S.D. Ireland for donating the concrete leveling blocks and culverts, and Fred McCullough of McCullough Crush-

user groups can work together on trail projects. We may ride different machines at different times of the year but in may cases we are all riding on the same trail and should be working together to improve and



ing, Inc. for donating the trucking costs. This is exactly the types of trail maintenance projects that are benefit to all of our organizations. It also helps to demonstrate how different

preserve our riding opportunities....one of the main goals and visions of VORA.

ANR PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

CONT'D

occurrence of inappropriate or illegal use is significantly reduced. There are also numerous studies and examples across the country that help to illustrate how successful working relationships between motorized and non-motorized user groups and local, state and federal land managers can and do work. Several successful examples can be found in the State of Minnesota and the Hatfield McCoy Trail System in West Virginia. Vermont is one of two states in the entire country that has not implemented a management program to allow motorized recreation on public lands. A large segment of our

aging population is not able to enjoy many of our public lands because of physical limitations. Many now rely on motorized recreation (ATV's) to continue to enjoy those opportunities. It is not a reasonable policy to limit access onto our public lands to only one segment of our population. With responsible environmental safeguards, public lands should be accessible to all residents for recreation, including motorized recreation. Just saying "no" to motorized recreation is not a responsible management policy. We believe that the ANR has included sufficient environmental and cultural conditions in the rule to ensure that any

proposed trail section will be compatible with existing land uses and in the best interests of the public. With a few notable exceptions, the vast majority of our public lands have been a working landscape for well over 250 years. At one time over 75% of Vermont's landscape was converted from forestland to active agricultural production. We are confident that motorized trail segments can be found on public lands that are safe, environmentally compatible and will help to promote positive land stewardship. We expect a decision to be made in October and are hopeful that the voice of reason will finally be heard.

“This proposed rule change is really about sharing our natural resources in a respectful and responsible manner with other recreational users.”



Paul Torrey installing the precast concrete blocks



Matt Z installing the 10" steel I-beams



Jerod Hosfros, excavator operator extraordinaire



Matt Mancini (R), the decking master

What is VORA?

VORA is the Vermont Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Association. Our purpose is to work cooperatively to create and sustain environmentally compatible land use opportunities for Off Highway Recreational Vehicles, and to promote responsible recreation for all generations. VORA was formed in 2008 by representatives from motorized associations in Vermont including VASA, (Vermont All Terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association), The CCC of VT, (Cycle Conservation Club of Vermont), and the VJA (Vermont Jeep Association). These groups came together with the assistance of NOHVCC, The National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council and the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) to form a unified group and create a strong voice to attain legal, and safe riding opportunities for Vermont families.

What does VORA do?

VORA is a volunteer organization that works diligently on issues such as:

- Access to State and Federal Lands
 - Class IV and Ancient Roads
- Assisting towns with allowing motorized access
 - Landowner Relations
 - Government Relations
- Providing information to interested parties
 - Promoting Responsible Recreation
- Partnering with Local, State and Federal Agencies
- Promoting Environmentally friendly recreation and Positive Land Stewardship

How Can You Help?

VORA is a new organization which needs volunteers and funds to attain our goals. Please join our organization today to support our efforts. Anyone can join, even if you don't own an Off Highway Recreational Vehicle. The fee schedule is as follows:

Individual: \$10.00/year

Business: \$25.00/year

Organization :\$25.00/year

Memberships are good for one calendar year from January 1-December 31. Membership in VORA allows you to vote and run for any position within the organization, access to VORA functions, and information and updates on the status and success of our goals. VORA encourages you to get the most out of your membership by attending meetings and functions.

The More Voices, the More Choices!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Join VORA Today

I wish to support VORA in the development of an off-highway vehicle association and to promote safe and legal motorized recreation in Vermont by becoming a member.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name: _____

Business: _____

Address _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Member number: _____

Preferred Recreational Form: Check all that apply

() ATV () Motorcycle () 4x4

Please check one:

() New Member () Renewal

Fee Schedule:

Individual Membership: \$10.00/ year Business: \$25.00/ year

Organization: \$25.00/ year

Annual Dues Include:

Right to vote, hold office and access to VORA functions.

Please make checks payable to:

Vermont Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Association

14 Don Camp Road

Barre, VT 05641

www.vtvora.org

1-802-477-5075

President:

Steve Carlin: steve@vtvora.org

Vice President:

Doug Weber: doug@vtvora.org

Treasurer:

Bob Cruickshank: bob@vtvora.org

Secretary:

Danny Hale: danny@vtvora.org

Members At Large:

ATV's: Bill Bailey bill@vtvora.org

Off Highway Motorcycles: Ken Robbins ken@vtvora.org

4x4's: Ian Schulze ian@vtvora.org

VORA Representative Only:

Date _____ Amount Paid