



FLORIDA FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION , INC.

Education Conservation Recreation

Fall 2006

Phase 2 ADP in the Ocala National Forest By: Jason Kawaja

When the FL4WDA approached Phase 1 during the comment and subsequent appeal periods our attention was that of quantity. We took on the fight of keeping as many trails open as possible. We gave many reasons for this in our Appeal of the FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement) and was supported by U4WDA (United 4 Wheel Drive Association) through the much appreciated assistance of Carla Boucher. We learned a great deal about trail inventory, Forest Service appeals and how U4WDA is able to assist us during such matters. In the end, the Forest Service upheld their right to choose the alternative route designation that they originally came up with and made very little change to it.

After many discussions on the matter that included the process of litigation, what the removed trails had to offer the 4X4 community and an OHV Workshop that included private trail consultants the FL4WDA began to shift the focus to quality of trails and away from quantity.

Phase 2 of the Access Designation Plan addresses the (mostly) center section of the Ocala National Forest. Within these areas the FL4WDA and Member Clubs have been doing an inventory of trails we would like to see remain open to 4X4 vehicles and have designated as such. We also hope to include various obstacles on these trails to offer an experience that the 4X4 public is searching for within the ONF while still adhering to basic Tread Lightly concepts and remaining with the rules/regulations of the Forest Service.

The FL4WDA will soon be making it's first formal request to the Forest Service for the 4X4 trail designations and recommendations of which trails to use.

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UNITED FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

By: Jenn Hawkins

Florida Four Wheel Drive Association, Inc., is a proud member of the United Four Wheel Drive Associations, Inc. United has spent a good deal of time addressing the motorized recreation issues in Florida. But more importantly, United Four Wheel Drive Associations, Inc., works tirelessly to promote four wheel drive recreation in all of the locations that we, in Florida, visit each year. Places such as Tellico in North Carolina, Grayrock ORV in Alabama, River Rock in Georgia, Moab in Utah, and Las Cruces in New Mexico. Some of you may notice that there are some private ORV Parks thrown in to that list. What could possibly be the problem with wheeling on private property? As Grayrock has found out, even if you own a strip mine, if you have those “outlaw four wheel drives around”, your neighbors aren’t going to like it. Apparently, in Alabama, big earth moving machines stripping the earth bare are ok, just not four wheel drives that weigh 3000 pounds.



In order for United Four Wheel Drive Associations, Inc., to be successful, it needs the financial and letter writing support of each and every four wheel drive owner across the country. Not only do they need the letter writing support for issues addressing Flor-

ida, they also need your letter writing support to protect the areas where we’ve been and where we want to go in the future.

United Four Wheel Drive also needs your financial support. What you get for your \$15 or \$25 each year is a quarterly newsletter to keep you informed of four wheel drive happenings, legal issues from across the country and the world, and also access to vendors and other organizations that support United. Some of these vendors offer discounts for those who are members of United Four Wheel Drive. One of the most important things that available to members of United is access to the legal and legislative advocate, Carla Boucher. Carla is a paid attorney working strictly for United Four Wheel Drive members. Some of you may remember Carla from the FL4WDA campout in January of last year. She was here in January and then again in May to address the FL4WDA and United Four Wheel Drive appeal of the Phase I ADP.

So when you buy that next mod for the trail rig or another string of raffle tickets, try to remember that without the efforts of United Four Wheel Drive, you won’t have too many places left to go.

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Volunteer Trail Patrol

The UFWDA Volunteer Trail Patrol program establishes a formal network for concerned recreation and conservationists to communicate with other recreationists and law enforcement officers regarding crime-related problems. Simply translated, Volunteer Trail Patrol asks you to be the eyes and ears of the law enforcement officers, to be more involved with your fellow recreationists and your environment by becoming more aware and alert to the activity in your recreation area.

For example, as we go about our normal routes and activities in our recreation area we have the opportunity to casually observe our surroundings and the activities that take place in it. Such observations may be useful in keeping camping areas litter-free, reporting vandalism, or alerting recreationists and law enforcement officers to suspicious or illegal activities in the area. It is important to realize that criminals find it difficult to operate in areas where citizens take an active role in preventing crime.

OBSERVING and REPORTING are the cornerstones of the Volunteer Trail Patrol. Trail Patrol volunteers are trained to observe illegal activities and to accurately identify people and vehicles. All observations are non-confrontational and conducted in the safest way possible to protect volunteers. Trail Patrol volunteers use their observation and recording skills to file accurate reports

with local law enforcement officials regarding suspected illegal activities or safety concerns.

If you or your club are interested in participating in the Volunteer Trail Patrol, contact Jason Kawaja, jason@fl4wda.com.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

The Board of Directors is always looking for anyone willing to assist us in any way possible. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors, there are currently a position available. Also, if you are interested in becoming a Regional Director, let us know. We are in DESPERATE need of a Northwest Florida/Panhandle Regional Director.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DIANE KARNBACH of the Orlando Jeep Club for stepping up and becoming our new Environmental Affairs Director.

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Babcock Ranch

By: Dan Stewart

This year the Florida government with the help of federal agencies and some other funds has entered into contract to buy the Babcock Ranch in Charlotte/Lee counties in southwest florida. The area of land bought is about 70,000+ acres of land that is a working ranch and wetlands and other industry type elements. The land is slated to be come a preserve and recreation area. That being said it is time to try and secure our participation to get ORV recreation on the Babcock Ranch.

There are areas of the ranch that would not be suitable for off road recreation such as the telegraph swamp and other environmentally sensitive areas, which is something that should be carefully protected, but there is also miles of existing trails that would be suitable for usage for ORVs. Also there are

areas that were previously mined and would also be suitable for Off Road recreation. Currently a lot of talk is about "Environmentally Friendly" recreation, but we need to get active and be a voice to get our recreation as part of the recreation opportunities the ranch will offer to the citizens of Florida. And prove that with a well thought out and managed trail system having off road vehicles on this land will only add to the greatness of the area not to destroy the environment. So keep alert to any news reports about the Babcock Ranch and please write to your Florida representatives and Florida governor that the Babcock Ranch is a place that would be perfect for having a trail system to allow ORV enthusiasts the chance to see the beauty of the land.

WHAT'S COMING UP!!!!!!

**Southeast JEEPFEST
DECEMBER 2, 2006**

By the South Florida Jeep Club

Visit their website at www.southfloridajeepclub.homestead.com

**FLORIDA FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.
ANNUAL MEETING AND CAMPOUT
JANUARY 12-14, 2007
LAKE OKLAWAHA CAMPGROUND**

**OFF ROAD ESSENTIALS
With Matty and Denise
November 11, 2006**

Email them at mattyanddenise@switchbackdesigns.com for more info