



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department ATV Advisory Committee Meeting

November 5, 2020, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Remote- Zoom Meeting

OPRD ATV Advisory Committee Members Present:

Tim Custer-Chair
Dave Kimball-Class I Representative
Virgle Osborne- Class II Representative
Barrett Brown- Class III Representative
Matt Miller- Class IV Representative
Sgt Nick Hansen- Law Enforcement Representative
Ann Haak-ADA Representative
Jahmal Rebb – Oregon Department of Forestry
Troy Costales – Oregon Department of Transportation
Chris Knauf – Bureau of Land Management
Jim Cole – Emergency Medical Services Provider
Jody Phillips – Rural Fire Protection District
Jeff Trejo – Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Other:

Ron Price, Dan Jordan, Dustin James, David White, and Brent Jenkins

Not Present:

Zach Jarrett-U.S. Forest Service
Greg Jackle- OR Department of Fish & Wildlife

OPRD Staff Present:

Michele Scalise, Daniel Killam, Lisa Sumption, Bevin Clapper, Ian Caldwell, Mike Law, Jeff Trejo, Katie Gauthier, and Jayme Jones

Meeting called to order at **9:04 AM on Thursday November 5, 2020** by Tim Custer.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Review Agenda
2. Approval of February 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes

(ACTION)

Motion: Nick Hansen moved to accept the February 26, 2020 meeting minutes.

Second: Dave Kimball

Vote: No objections. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments: None

4. Committee Member Update:

These new member and term renewals will be presented to the Parks Commission for approval later this month.

New Member recommended ATV Dealer: Dustin James

New Member recommended ATV User at Large: Ron Price

Renew Position BLM: Chris Knauf

Renew Position Class I: Dave Kimball

Upcoming Elections – Tim Custer will be rolling off at the beginning of the year. Virgle will be running the meetings in February. Recommend doing a full advisory meeting when we do the grant meeting. Committees will need to pick Chairs and Co-Chairs.

Tim Custer was presented a plaque and recognized by Lisa Sumption, OPRD staff along with ATV Committee Members for his service on the ATV Advisory Committee and ATV Grant Subcommittee.

5. Committee Member Feedback Regarding Impact of COVID-19

Each ATV Committee Member provided a 3-5 minute update on the impacts of COVID-19 that they saw this year.

Ann Haak – Several events were canceled.

Virgle Osborne – Initially concerned about business but ended up seeing 30% to 40% increase. He has noticed (since campgrounds are closed) an increase in dispersed camping. Some big in-person fund-raisers and events have been impacted and are now relying on platforms like Facebook and Zoom.

Matt Miller – President of the Central Oregon SxS Club as well as a rental company. The tourism market was shut down. Last half of year it's been busy. General riding seemed a lot busier than normal. There were challenges getting dealer inventory and parts which is just now starting to get somewhat better.

Jody Phillips – During the dunes shut-down, nothing was going on. When the dunes opened, it opened up with a vengeance. Parking lots were full. He has noticed that the accident rates have skyrocketed. The month of August averaged 2 accident calls a day. Riders were new and rode faster and accidents were more severe. There's also an uptick in trail accidents. There was a major increase in urban riders that have never been in the dunes before and not understanding hills and valleys.

Dave Kimball – At first riders were worried that they had no place to go, they needed to be intuitive to find the open areas. A lot of events and clubs were shut down as well.

Nick Hansen – COVID-19 impacted the closing of parks and during that time, the number of riders went down. There was user confusion with regard to open and closed riding areas at Winchester. The USFS areas were closed but not the county. Having the county open caused a huge influx of users. They worked with USFS to have riding areas open near Winchester. When all areas opened-up, they saw an increase in users. They haven't seen a great increase in accidents. Holiday weekends were packed. Dune Fest was canceled and had a big impact on local businesses.

Jim Cole – with COVID-19, EMS has taken quite a hit. There was an incredible uptick in trauma on the dunes. People are getting out and gathering in mass and in crowds. They've targeted prevention education around travel safety. As soon as people realized they could more safely go out into the outdoors and do things, they've seen a lot of outdoor accidents. They're getting more significant motor vehicle crashes. EMS is not only struggling to stay healthy but people have not been able to pay rent/mortgages and as a result, the tax-base revenue has been down effecting budgets.

Barrett Brown – What comes to mind is the impact on communities, OHV, clubs, events and volunteer activities. Out in the field – there are new users with no trail ethics, the human waste & garbage and trail impact increasing during a time when land management resources and volunteer activities are declining. Agency partners are embracing responsible protocols for volunteer activities and events. It's challenging to manage users.

Jahmaal Rebb – Going into 2020 they had a full schedule, COVID-19 threw a wrench in it. As an agency they we closed the everything. The user community still came out and were impacted. With facilities closed they had a big issue with waste. That prompted how to open bathrooms. How to safely open and keep staff and public safe. They relied heavily on the South Fork inmate crews. As the season progressed, they opened campgrounds. OHV management was able to make progress with plans. There was an impact on dispersed areas. He noticed that dealer inventory was impacted (less inventory). People are finding different ways to recreate. There was a huge uptick in ridership whether they're experienced or not. Their concern is, is this going to be the trend going forward with staff having to deal with the influx? They had a big fire this year. Recovery efforts are on the way. Salvage logging and recreation planning on going. They have also seen an increase in non-recreational campers.

Chris Knauf – BLM is seeing an increase in dispersed camping because campgrounds are closed. They're seeing more RVs as people can be more self-contained. They're also seeing more ebikes – there's a new rule taking effect on Dec. 2nd. Pretty much everyone in the state office is teleworking whereas the district offices are a hit-and-miss.

Troy Costales – ODOT point of view, almost 2K employees went from being in the office to teleworking. The DMV was shut down for 10 weeks. Titles and plates are going through mail. DMV office open by appointment only. Now, the focus in the field office is regarding driver privileges. There's about 10 to 12-week backlog on vehicle and driver

license side. ODOT was also impacted by wild fires. Quite a few employees lost homes. Most recently, the Governor made ODOT the lead for private property clean-up, since they have staff and equipment to work on it. The timing of the clean-up with winter road maintenance along with people being out due to COVID-19 is a challenge.

Tim Custer – He lost a week-long reservation this year at Spinreel Campground. Spinreel did a lot of work to get the day-use area opened up but the campground wasn't. He was worried about the restrooms not being opened along with trash issues. He noticed a lot of trash. He was also concerned about trail impacts due to a lot of people being out there. He noticed a lot of people buying new RVs and new toys reducing inventory availability. Time will tell about the damage done by increased trail use and dispersed camping. Our ATV Committee wasn't able to do site visits as normal. As an ATV Highway Access Routes Committee Member, he was able to see the Lakeside project and Sumpter project, since he was already in those areas. He has a much better understanding of the area seeing it in person vs all electronic. He misses having our meetings in person. Tim wants to thank everyone for their comments and he will still be on other committees.

6. Safety Education Program Update:

- **Impact of COVID-19:**
- Oregon ATV Riding Area Closures: April/May Timeframe:
 - All campgrounds are closed.
 - Some Day-use staging areas are still open but most have closed the restrooms.
 - Riding areas that have seen extremely high use and social distancing can't be maintained have been completely closed.
 - Hood River County Forest Department has closed all trails, roads and parking areas.
 - The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area has also closed all parking and staging areas and dunes.
 - Deschutes National Forest has closed all developed recreation sites.
 - Mt Emily Recreation Area-campground closed, trails open.
 - Most USFS and BLM areas have closed staging area, but trails remain open.
 - Morrow County staging area and trails are all closed.
- ATV Rental Agency Impact
 - Lost International client base which was significant.
 - Many customers came from the Pacific NW and Northern California.
 - More customers pushing the rules or not following state law.
 - Closures created surges once open.

- Limit sizes of groups to less than 10 people.
- They did record numbers when open.

- **Safety Education & Hands-On Training:**
 Hands-on Training courses were canceled mid- March through mid-June. Youth riders were able to continue to operate on public lands as long as they had their online ATV Safety Education certificate of completion containing their 11-digit card number and are being supervised by an adult 18 years or older. Courses resumed beginning June 12, 2020. All Safety Education events were cancelled except Outdoor Play Event in Klamath Falls, which was in January.

- **Incident Reporting**
 - 2020 Total Incidents = 111
 - Incident Rate Correlation by Vehicle Class 2018 thru 2020 (so far):
 Class I: 42% of sales & 58% of Incidents = Ratio of 1.38
 Class II: 19% of sales & 3% of Incidents = Ratio of .16
 Class III: 24% of sales & 16% of Incidents = Ratio of .67
 Class IV: 15% of sales & 27% of Incidents = Ratio of 1.80

- **ATV Safety Promotions & Messaging**
 - Rebranding of ATV Program: Consistent look and feel across platforms, development of electronic media, new graphics/signage, and new ATV Safety Exhibit for outreach events.
 - Dune Safety Messaging: Improved on-ground signage and campground reservation communication.
 - ATV Dealership Messaging: Buck-Slip and Electronic communication
 - ATV Rental Agency: Improve overall safety communication and Agency Recognition Program.
 - Online Training: Course curriculum update.
 - ATV Permits: Push to online sales processing.

- **Law Enforcement Tracking System (LETS) update**
 Law Enforcement Officers are now able to access ATV Permit data and ATV Safety Education Card data. The information is available through our ATV Law Enforcement Tracking System, which officers use to enter their ATV patrol hours and statistics (citations/warnings). The data is updated on a daily basis.

7. ATV Program Update:

- **Website Changes:**

- Visit: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/ATV/Pages/ATV-overview.aspx>
- **Permit Sales & Permit Sales Process Change**
 - Online Permit Sales Last 12 months: 21,355, which is a huge increase, due to COVID.
 - Class I sales decreasing and Class IV sales increasing
 - Fuel Tax Increase: Current rate is \$0.36 per gallon, increase \$0.10 from 2017 to 2024, increase of \$2 million for biennium, and \$25 increase for each sticker.
 - Over the last several grant cycles, we have been short on funding due to increased salary costs and inflation. Fuel tax increase is critical to continue funding programs.
- **Budget & Grants**
 - 2019 ATV Grants: February/April 2019 Meetings: Operations and Maintenance, Law Enforcement, Development, EMS and O&M/LE Equipment. \$9,083,374 total funded
 - February 2020 Grants: May 2020 – June 30, 2021
Mostly Equipment purchases. Had to delay starting grants until fuel taxes transferred (August), due to uncertainty of revenue. 23 projects. ~\$1.6 million funded.
 - Current Grant Cycle:
 - February Meeting:
O&M and Law Enforcement
 - April Meeting:
Development, EMS and O&M/LE Equipment projects.

8. Legislative Updates:

- **Safety Cards for Class IV**
Require ATV Safety Education Card for adults operating Class IV only (not Class II). Increase incident rate for Class IV. The rental agencies do not require a Safety Checklist on Class IV. Last session the concept was for Class II and IV. A lot of questioning came about Class II and “cars driving off the road” needing the Card. We are having more crashes with Class IV than Class II ATVs. Moving forward with requiring the ATV Safety Education Cards for Class IV only.
- **14-inch wheel**
Issue with Class IV being defined with 14” wheels, users are putting aftermarket 15” wheels on side-by-sides, and by putting larger wheels on vehicle would define it as Class II. Moving forward with the concept of 1000cc. Recreational

Off-Highway Vehicles are defined by ANSI Standards of 1000cc and ROHVA's model law recommends using 1000cc. Need to separate side-by-sides from jeeps and trucks. Smallest car engines are about 1300-1400cc

- **Obstructed windshield instead of wiper**

Proposed that we would remove the requirement for windshield wipers on side by sides when there is a windshield and just say you would not have an obstructed windshield. Many side-by-sides only have ½ windshield and it is difficult to get wipers on some full windshields.

Katie: Still in the concept stage, working with the Governor to make sure we can answer all their questions. Anticipate to introduce both Bills in December, then Bills will be at next legislative session in 2021.

9. ATV Highway Access Routes Committee Update:

- Lakeside: Spinreel Road was designated as an ATV Highway Access Route this summer. This was the old Hwy 101 and now is considered a "frontage" road with very light traffic. Lakeside has a business route, which allows ATVs to access local businesses.
- Sumpter
ATV Highway Access Committee has review 1.18 mile section of Sumpter Highway in town and recommended to open the route. City and County roads in the area are also open. Oregon Transportation Commission Meeting on December 1, 2020 will make the final decision.

10. Next Meeting: February 23-25, 2021 via Remote Zoom Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM on Thursday November 5, 2020 by Tim Custer.