



Notes from the President

January 2016

The mission of the ISATVA is to focus on six primary areas: Participation, Education, Land Management, Lobbying, Cooperation, and Advancement.

Dear ISATVA Chapter Representatives,

Happy New Year to you and all your club members. My New Years Resolution for this year is to keep you better informed of what the state organization, ISATVA, is doing to advocate for the interests of OHV users in Idaho. I hope this will be the first of monthly updates to you, and ask my fellow officers to feel free to chime in an update the group on their efforts as well, or upon anything I have missed. We are a busy organization and always have a lot going on. Here is a brief synopsis of where we stand as this New Year begins!

IDPR UPDATE: ISATVA and Idaho Parks and Recreation continues to develop a strong, supportive and collaborative relationship with IDPR and its new Director, David Langhorst. Mr. Langhorst has been a breath of fresh air in IDPR and has taken a proactive approach towards working with, not against, user groups. He allows his staff that same freedom and we continue to have close working relationships with the recreation bureau chief (Dave Claycomb) and the OHV Program Manager (Troy Elmore), as well as many other OHV staff members. The “registration” system through IDPR is back on the agenda as IDPR looks at ways to modernize and simplify the system. We are engaged in that process and working with the Department. We have a seat at the table on this issue and will remain committed to our goals of insuring that whatever system results maintains the current fee structure, retains the retail vendor network, and is as simple as needed and accessible as possible. I will continue to keep you advised as the process continues. It is in its early stages right now.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: The Legislature has just got to town. We have no major legislative agenda this session. We will of course monitor what legislation comes forward and react and respond as needed.



Rep. Terry Gestrin (R-Donnelly) will be carrying one bill for us this session to clarify that OHVs can operate on highways within city limits where the speed limit is 45 mph or less. The bill will also extend that privilege to county areas where the speed limit is 45 mph or less. Please keep this in mind if you have the opportunity to speak with a legislator, let them know the need for and your support for the bill.

Another legislative issue, being led by the Idaho State Snowmobile Association, will relate to exempting nonprofit clubs from the requirement that they obtain raffle permit for club meetings. There is a strange aspect in current law that is being interpreted to say that every time you draw a ticket, that counts as one raffle. Many clubs draw 2-3 tickets per meeting as an attendance incentive. Current law limits you to 12 raffles per year. We want to clear things

up so that each event counts as one raffle. This would allow you to have drawings at one event each month.

OWHYEE COUNTY TRAVEL PLANNING: The BLM is beginning travel management planning in Owhyee County. This is an area popular to Southwest Idaho clubs and Magic Valley clubs. Owhyee County receives 55,000 OHV-related trips to its county each year. The only county with more OHV trips in a year in Idaho is Valley County. The current scoping documents are horrible and seem to make a large amount of our routes disappear. We will be commenting on this planning process and be actively involved to protect the existing routes. Stan Mai (Magic Valley ATV Riders) and Haden Claiborne (Idaho UTV) are heading this up for us.



IDAHO LANDS UPDATE: The Idaho Department of Lands is receiving increasing pressure to lease state lands for exclusive recreational use to private groups. We are working with IDL to create a plan that will not allow them to make these types of leases, ensuring that rural state endowment lands remain open for OHV travel. This may mean amending statute to allow IDL to apply unused money set aside for OHV mitigation (\$1/registration) to be used for endowment purposes, thereby basically having the user group pay for the privilege of open recreation. This issue is not on the short term time horizon – it is a developing issue – so stay tuned.



ISLAND PARK/CALDERA MONUMENT: The Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness issue is decided, and now environmental advocates have turned their attention to the Island Park area and a possible Caldera National Monument designation. The Idaho Recreation Council has become engaged on this issue and, together with local interests, is planning to develop federal legislation that protects this area from becoming a monument, prevents it from becoming wilderness, and retains OHV access to the area.



VALLEY COUNTY – CLEAR CREEK TRAILHEAD: Valley County desires to purchase a large parking area along Clear Creek Road to provide a staging and parking area for snowmobile and OHV use. The area is up for sale and being sold by Potlatch. Valley County needs \$60,000 to purchase the land. The Idaho Recreation Council has committed \$3,000 to the project. I would like to propose that ISATVA contribute \$1,000 towards this project as well. The majority of funds are expected to come from a grant, but other contributions are needed. Please let me know no later than January 31, 2016 if you object to such an expenditure by ISATVA. I view this as a very favorable project to ensure OHV access to Idaho's most visited county for OHV riding. (If you wonder where I get my recreation statistics, check the study published on our website – [http://www.idahostateatv.org/publications/Off-Highway Rec Analysis.pdf](http://www.idahostateatv.org/publications/Off-Highway_Rec_Analysis.pdf)).

2016 ANNUAL MEETING. Our 2016 Annual Meeting is to be held in Couer d’Alene area this year. We are currently taking votes to determine the precise date for the meeting to ensure maximum attendance. Please vote, and have your members vote. Voting needs to close by January 31, 2016 so we can start planning. Here is the link to where to vote – <http://www.northidahoatv.org/ISATVA/Meeting2016/>.

CLUB VISIT. Do you want an ISATVA officer to visit a club meeting? Please just let me know, and when you prefer, and we will get something set up so that we can visit with your members on a face-to-face visit and let them know what ISATVA is doing.

RENEWAL TIME. Now is the time to renew your ISATVA membership. The renewal form and instructions can be found at <http://www.idahostateatv.org/publications/ISATVA%20membership%20application%20v9.pdf>.

Thanks everyone, and looking forward to another great year !!

David P. Claiborne, President

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