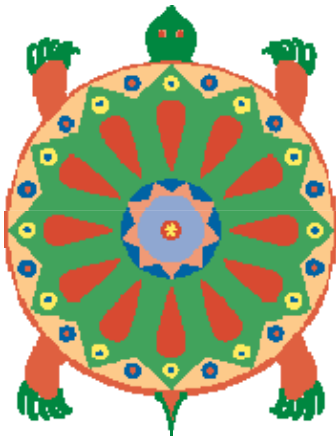


A Symbol for Responsible Motorized Recreationists

By Del & Stacie Albright

Stacie and I are tired of seeing turtles on the back windows of cars and trucks. The turtle represents (in many cases) the anti-access attitude and philosophy. We're sure you've seen them (they're everywhere). We feel it's time for us, motorheads, to have a symbol – a symbol for access for all, for motors in the backcountry, for responsible access. We're starting an initiative to find that symbol. We want your help.

(From Wiki): The Turtle is considered by some Native Americans to be one of their oldest, most sacred symbols. They believed that North America was created on the back of The Great Mother, a turtle. In the Far East, turtle was carved and worn as a talisman for power over all forms of bad magic. The turtle represents earthy, grounded, longevity, protection, shelter, and a steady pace.



The turtle's shell resembled a dome and was seen as a symbol of the dome of heaven -hence heavenly virtue. Generally the turtle is seen to represent: self-containment, creative source, earthiness, being grounded, longevity, protection, shelter, and a steady approach to life.

So we feel we need a symbol (that can live right along your favorite organization stickers) that the world will begin to recognize as responsible recreation – access for all. The GOP have their elephant. The “Dems” have their donkey. The NRA has their patriot with a rifle. The Sierra Club has their tree and Yosemite. The anti-access, greenie crowd in general have their turtle. What do we have? “We” being all of us – dirt bikes, 4x4's, sand buggies, quads, UTV's, jeeps, trucks, snowmobiles, etc. anything with a motor. We don't have one. Stacie and I want to help change that.

We may not agree on what organizations to belong to. We may not agree on what lawsuits to file or not file. We may not agree on who's on first or who's in charge. But can't we agree on one symbol that says: Responsible Access; Access for All; Motors in the Backcountry; Freedom to travel and recreate; No More Gates; etc.

This will be organization indifferent and all encompassing. This will not be a particular rig or type of vehicle. This could be an animal that we PROMOTE as representing us. This could be about anything that we can all stand behind as OUR symbol of OUR access and freedom.

So in order to develop this idea, we want your help.

First step will be to gather your thoughts on what this should say (figuratively and perhaps literally). Should it say motors? Should it say responsible? Should it say access? Thoughts?

Second Step will be to do polls and ideas on a critter/animal or symbol that might SAY the things we think it should SAY. In other words, an elephant says big, says memory, says solid, conservative, bad ass with big ears, whatever. What critter or symbol will say what we want SAID?

Third step will be to market and develop this idea with the organizations we all love and belong to. Our plan will be to get buy in on many forums as well in many organizations. It will not be an easy process. But we are willing to lead this charge and find our "turtle" so the world knows who we are, regardless of what you ride or who you belong to (or not).

Will someone make money on this idea? Heck I don't know and I really don't care. However, we wouldn't mind some gas money to support more land use efforts out of this, but we think the options are open to spread this idea between organizations or websites. We sure don't see this as making anyone rich. I would hope that we could eventually develop the idea into land use money help with a broad appeal. That part is yet to be settled. We don't plan to let that slow us down in the development.

We hope you will jump in with your best thoughts, even those of you with Mohawks, cold ones in hand, pool parties, and other priorities. This is for all of us. Bring some smack down, help develop this into something we can all use, share and be proud of – oh, and if it also happens to unite us to some extent, then all the better.

Del & Stacie Albright, July 10, 2009