

# **Stop the Stink!**

## **Public lands in trouble but help is on the way**

By Del Albright

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It stinks! – some of the things happening to our country these days. It stinks! - what some people are trying to do to our public lands. There is a “smell” to the undercurrent that is nit-picking at our freedoms and it is time to “Stop the Stink!”

It stinks that a well-funded bunch of anti-access folks are influential enough to turn our mountains and deserts into untouchable museums viewed from afar; that these same folks who don't like motors would want to see us park all our toys in the garage; and it really stinks to see gates going up on trails and roads we've enjoyed for decades. We must stop the stink and soon.

BlueRibbon Coalition and many other organized recreation groups are tired of the “smell” and doing something about it. You have to be a part of stopping this stink in order for the war on access to be won, this plan is not complicated!

First off it's important to realize that all organized recreation groups have a purpose, and most of them blend into the same cause like BlueRibbon's motto – to keep “Public Lands FOR the People Instead of FROM the People”. It's all about access and access for all.

Next it's critical you know that YOU are the key and should belong to every organization that makes sense to your beliefs. That is the most important thing you can do in these times because we face a numbers game and we need more numbers (members) in all groups. Now more than ever we need your membership in organized recreation because the stink is spreading and we must stop it.

The folks who don't like our chosen life styles have more money than us. So what? There are millions of OHV enthusiasts who are just now realizing how serious this stink is and are waking up to the threats so let's ALL get together and fight it.

Many influential people now see that you just can't dress up stink to make it smell good and look “purdy.” TV personalities, influential columnists, and land use activists are getting stronger and more vocal in their messages all the time. Stink is stink; let's stop the stink together!

I am writing this article from a solid base of research and first hand experience to help us stop the stink. I am fortunate to be a full-time land use and recreation activist working as an Ambassador for BlueRibbon Coalition, while also volunteering with several other organized groups fighting for our access like my state association, the California Association of 4Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC).

I am in contact with recreationists all over the country (and even the world) who are concerned with the “smells” they are experiencing. While attending dozens of events around the country from the TDS Desert Safari to Sierra Trek in CA, to Jeep Beach (FL in May), to Wisconsin and Minnesota, to Moab (many times), SEMA, Off-Road Expo, and countless other gatherings, I have heard thousands of folks tell me the same things about the “stink”.

I've talked to Moms worried about their kids having a place to ride as they grow up. I've been around many a campfire where sons talk about the places they used to go with their Dad, and no longer can go due to some unnecessary Wilderness or trail closure. I've seen the tears of old timers who have witnessed their heritage being stolen, one gate at a time. It stinks!

The message is clear. We need action and not just words. We need folks to take up pens, shovels and dig out the smelly stuff to root out the problems. We need unity in our action and harmony in our voices. But most importantly we need to do something. OHV enthusiasts, four-wheelers, snow-mobilers, and riders from all over agree: it is time to unify more and fight back to stop the stink.

Join up or renew your commitment to BlueRibbon Coalition, your state association and those groups that make sense to you. Do it today. Write those letters and sign those petitions when asked. Do it when asked. And if you really want to save our recreational future, go get 10 of your non-joining friends and fellow motorheads to do the same. You can make a difference, and you can help stop the stink.

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