

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
114th Congress Disclosure Form
As required by and provided for in House Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)

July 28, 2015

*"Accountability, Policies, and Tactics of Law Enforcement within the Department of the Interior
and the U.S. Forest Service"*

For Individuals:

Name:
Address:
Email Address:
Phone Number:

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For Witnesses Representing Organizations:

Name: **Russ Ehnes**
Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing: **National Off Highway Vehicle
Conservation Council.**
Business Address: **427 Central Ave W. Great Falls, MT 59404**
Business Email Address: [REDACTED]
Business Phone Number: [REDACTED]

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For Nongovernment Witnesses ONLY:

1. Please attach/include current curriculum vitae or resume.
2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract.

N/A

3. Please list any contracts or payments originating with a foreign government related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

N/A

Russ Ehnes

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Biography

Russ is the Executive Director of the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC). He has lived in Great Falls, Montana his entire life. In 1997 Russ joined the NOHVCC staff as a full-time employee. In December of 1998, the Board of Directors appointed him to the position of Executive Director.

Russ' parents operated a small motorcycle shop from 1967 until the mid eighties. They took their family trail riding nearly every weekend. Russ began riding motorcycles when he was five and has enjoyed trail riding as well as competitively racing motocross, flat track, cross-country, and competing in trials events until the mid eighties. Since then Russ has turned his attention to off-road advocacy, dual-sport riding and trail riding with his wife, two children, parents, and friends.

Russ became involved in off-highway vehicle advocacy in 1978 and in 1985 was a founding member of the Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association (MTVRA) and the Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association (GFTBRA). He is the current Past-President of the MTVRA and is President of the GFTBRA. Russ was a member of the Montana OHV Grant Advisory Committee for thirteen years. He has been active in state and federal legislative efforts regarding OHV recreation for over twenty years and has helped draft and pass several bills in the Montana legislature that have been beneficial to OHV recreationists. Russ has been an active participant in several US Forest Service Travel Planning and Forest Plan Revision processes in Montana. Russ is also the co-owner/manager of Bull Run Guest Ranch, a 13,000 acre ranch with a 100 mile trail system for OHVs and equestrians.

He has worked with a wide variety of recreation and resource groups as well as state and federal agencies. He has experience with federal agencies at every level from field offices to Washington, DC. Russ helped develop a wide variety of OHV educational programs including the NOHVCC OHV Management Workshop and Webinar series, the NOHVCC Adventure Trail Program, and Montana's On the Right Trail Campaign.

Experience

1985 – Co-Founder of the Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association. Russ is currently the President of the organization that boasts nearly 1,000 members in Great Falls and the surrounding communities. The group has several trail maintenance agreements with the Lewis and Clark National Forest and donates hundreds of hours of labor annually to clear and maintain trails in National Forests.

1986 – Founding member of the Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association. Russ is currently Past President (a board position) of the organization. The statewide group represents 19 OHV organizations and over 2,500 individual members.

1987 – Worked with coalition to pass legislation establishing the Montana Off-Highway Vehicle Program within the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

1991 – Participated in Motorcycle Industry Council OHV Management Workshop, Helena Montana.

1991 – 1994 – Participated in the travel management process in the Highwood Mountains, Lewis and Clark National Forest

1992 – 1997- Montana State Partner for the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council.

1993 – Conducted MTVRA OHV Management Workshop in cooperation with Motorcycle Industry Council, Helena Montana.

1994 –1997 - Served on NOHVCC Board of Directors.

1995 – Created Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association “Trail Ranger” trail maintenance program. The program currently employs two seasonal employees who work full-time on trail maintenance in coordination with USFS trail managers.

1997 – Coordinated development and implementation of the Montana “On the Right Trail” education campaign

1997 – Joined NOHVCC as National Sales Manager

1998 – Present - Executive Director of NOHVCC

1999 – Developed and implemented NOHVCC OHV Management Workshop Series. Over 90 Workshops have been conducted nationwide.

2003 – Present – Participated in the travel management process in the Little Belt, Castle, and Crazy Mountains and Rocky Mountain Front, Lewis and Clark National Forest.

2005 – Present – Co-owner/ Manager Bull Run Guest Ranch. Bull Run is a 12,000 acre guest ranch that features a 100 mile managed OHV trail system, guided horseback rides, and hunting opportunities.

2006 – Worked in cooperation with the MIC to develop and implement NOHVCC Route Designation workshop series. 24 workshops were conducted across the nation to help stakeholders and USFS work productively in the route designation process required by the 2005 Motorized Travel Management Rule.

2008 – Developed and implemented the NOHVCC Travel Management Webinar series. The webinars were designed to help stakeholders and agency personnel continue to work toward improved travel management after initial designation was complete.

2009 – Present – Participate in the travel management process in the Blackfoot Rangers District, Helena National Forest.

2010 – Present – Developed and implemented pilot program to improve the management of OHV recreation and the sustainability of trail systems and natural resources on BLM lands. The development of the program is in cooperation with the MIC and the BLM Washington Office. The two pilot projects currently underway are the Whitetail/Pipestone OHV area in the Butte, Montana Field Office and the Texas Creek OHV area in the Royal Gorge, Colorado Field Office.