



January 14, 2006  
Lake Ocklawaha Resort and Campground  
FL4WDA Meeting

*Minutes provided by Dawn Taylor, Secretary of Ocala Jeep Club.*

Guest Speakers-

Bret Bush and Ken Harrison from Forestry Service  
Carla Boucher- Legislative Advocate for United 4 Wheel Drive Association  
Ray Woo- Member of the Ocala Jeep Club, Past FL4WDA President

Jason Kawaja called the meeting to order at 11:20 am and introduced Bret Bush.

Points that Bret Discussed:

- There are 383,000 acres of public and private land in the Ocala National Forest (ONF).
- Acknowledged that Jason (FL4WDA President) is now an off-road trail ranger (also referred to as OHV trail ranger).
- The main points of the OHV trail ranger program are to identify problem areas and educate users of the forest
- On December 27<sup>th</sup>, the Record of Decision was signed.
- Please check out the ONF website for all sorts of information from maps, resources, and the future of over half of the forest.
- There is a color-coding on the newer map. The white areas are the ones that are under analysis and the yellow areas (phase 2) are yet to be analyzed.
- Today, there are two categories of people using the forest.
  - Licensed Vehicles
  - Unlicensed Vehicles
- As of 12/27/2005, there are 55 miles of Unlicensed Trails and 80 miles for mixed use. There are more Licensed Vehicles than unlicensed that are using the forest.
- Remember: the ONF is going from an open forest to a closed forest starting at the end of April or May. It used to be that signs stated "Closed. Open to foot traffic only." Now they will be closed unless signage says open.
- There is a 45-day appeal process.
- The only day-use area will be the Rodman Pit. It will only be used during daylight and will be fenced in. It is the only "concentrated use area" left.

---

# FLORIDA

## FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION

---

[www.FL4WDA.com](http://www.FL4WDA.com)

---

### **Education • Conservation • Recreation**

- Ocklawaha Dam is in the plans to be taken down to restore area that will allow for ecosystem restoration. There is a delay due to the lack of funds.
- As far as Access Designation goes, we must not allow more degrading and we have to fix what has degraded.
- Phase 2 is soon to start.
- "The yellow section will be closed down within the next year and it will have interim trails because the area is being damaged by ATVs/Dirt Bikes." He was primarily referring to the Big Scrub area.

\*Jennifer Hawkins had a Question for Brett.

Q: "Do you see use as the problem or as part of a solution?"

A: "Solution. It is a coalition of users. We have to police ourselves. It is up to you. It is your money used to hire patrolmen. If we're going to preserve our right to ride...it is going to be us."

Jennifer introduced the Board Members:

- President: Jason Kawaja
- Vice President: Jennifer Hawkins
- Membership Director: Russ Hawkins
- Secretary: Brian Small (absent)
- Treasurer: Monica Monroe (absent)

The positions of Membership Director and Secretary are currently open. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Jennifer. The Southeast and Northwest Regions are in need of directors to represent them in the association. Meetings are held online as those involved live all over the state.

---

# FLORIDA

## FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION

---

[www.FL4WDA.com](http://www.FL4WDA.com)

---

**Education • Conservation • Recreation**

Roll Call of Members in Attendance:

- Florida Jeepers Offroad Association
- Toyota Territory Offroaders Association, Florida Chapter
- Florida Land Cruisers
- Extreme Jeeps of North Florida
- Jeepers Jeep Club
- Mosquito County 4 Wheel Drive
- Clay County 4X4
- Ocala Jeep Club
- Orlando Jeep Club
- Gator 4X4
- Legendary Jeep Club
- Suncoast Flatlanders
- The Pavement End
- Lakeland Jeep Club

Jennifer directed members in attendance to pick up copies of minutes from the last FL4WDA Campout meeting, the FL4WDA budget, and the United's Voice (U4WDA's Monthly Newsletter).

Jennifer reported that the FL4WDA is still working on getting access to the Babcock Ranch.

Jason's points:

- The FL4WDA hosted a forest clean-up in which 9 TONS of garbage was picked up! Thanks to all of those who were able to put in the time and effort. Stay tuned, as we will be holding more of these in the future!
- The Tellico comment period ended yesterday.
- Today's schedule: Brown Bottle Clean-up at Rodman Pit, Blind Man's Course at 2pm, Trail Riding in Between, Dinner around 630 pm, Raffle Drawing following dinner.



Jennifer invited Ray Woo to speak.

Ray's points:

- The maps that were passed out at last year's campout have not changed.
- There are 767 miles to travel and there are more than 86 miles of mixed trail use.
- There are 22 miles in the Lake George Region and 63 miles in the Big Scrub District.

Carla Boucher (Legislative Advocate) came down from Virginia to speak with us concerning our Forest. Some of her comments were as follows:

- She started off giving a little bit of background including that her and her Husband own 6 jeeps ranging from 1943 to 1982.
- Some people that she recognized for their efforts in communicating with her and United are: Jack Moller, Bill Cross, Carl Reiche, and Ray Woo. She highly praised these gentlemen for their hard work over the years.
- "Posting sections of the forest as open is silly." She explained that when signs go missing or damaged, it costs a lot of money to replace them. An accessible access map (not posted signage) is the way to educate visitors of the forest.
- She has a meeting with the Chief of the Forestry Service this coming Tuesday.
- Carla stated that some ways of closing a trail is with the use of tank traps, gates, and natural/bigger barriers. Ways to state an area is open is by signage only.
- The access designation process started from 1999-2000.
- There are over 1100 miles lost. You aren't allowed to drive in areas blocked by the record decision.
- There is a 45-day appeals process.
- Carla is here for us. Just call her, the United Board Members, and/or the FL4WDA Board Members. (United phone numbers are accessible on the front page of the voice)
- United has a Volunteer Trail Patrol program that takes a short amount of time to learn and can be used to assist land use managers with problem areas of the forest.



- She discussed that United filed a lawsuit on Friday. It is dealing with Blue water Network (who are anti-access) versus the National Parks Service. To sum it up, Blue water started a suit against the Parks Service concerning the park's rules for access. The Blue water Network was trying to put all types of recreational vehicles (i.e. swamp buggies, sand rails, etc) into one category of ATVs. The National Parks Service is dividing Street legal vehicles (which are allowed) and Swamp Buggies (which aren't allowed).
- The membership structure has changed for United. There are three different ways to join:
  - Individual person (no affiliation to club) is \$25
  - If you join United through a club it is \$15
  - If everyone in FL4WDA joins United it is \$10
- It is much easier to process a few different applications rather than a ton of applications; therefore the cost is reflective of how much work it will take to activate your membership.

Meeting Adjourned by Jason at 12:45 pm.

Thanks to all those who helped make this weekend a successful one including:

- Ernie Prevedal and John Warner for cooking on the "Mighty Grill."
- To the Members of the Ocala Jeep Club for allowing use of the articulation ramp, the flatbed trailer for serving food, and the tent for raffle sales.
- Mosquito County 4X4 for setting-up and manning the slow crawl course.
- To those members who chose to help with the clean-up at Rodman Pit and to Ray Woo for allowing the use of his trailer to haul it away.

If you would like to send your pictures of the weekend in, please email them to Jennifer Hawkins, [hawkfdc@bellsouth.net](mailto:hawkfdc@bellsouth.net) or Jason Kawaja, [Jason@fl4wda.com](mailto:Jason@fl4wda.com).