South Dakota ATV/UTV Association

Results Implementers Meeting

Rapid City, April 16, 2022

Goal: Contribute to a Black Hills Regional OHV Strategy for Success – a living document with solutions and an implementation strategy.

Objectives:

1. Review the solutions that have come out of the OHV Collaboration Process
2. Identify solutions that can be implemented in the short term, mid-term and long term.
3. Identify implementation strategies for the short and mid-term.

8:00 am Introductions to People and Process. Jessica Western
8:10 Review Solutions
8:30 Breakout Groups:
   1. Identify solutions that can be implemented in the short term, mid-term and long term.
   2. Identify implementation strategies for the short and mid-term.

10:30 Report Back
11:00 Discuss Implementation and Cooperation Options
11:55 Next Steps
Noon Adjourn
**OHV Club Breakout Group Results. (Numbers refer to solutions).**

- (79,80,81) Short-term. Adopt a trail program would be a good system. Need to work with USFS to achieve that due to specific maintenance restrictions.
- (7, 38,65) Short-term. Create page to be put in trail maps.
- (37) Short-term. Standardized handout would be beneficial with USFS. One page brochure and hand signal information
  - Bundle maps, info, brochure
- (72,73,74,75,48,76,38,16) trails are not marked well causing issues for users ending up in places where they did not mean to get
  - Figure out system for trail rating options (what does a 10 mean?) clubs can help figure this rating system out (Dugan Placard is a great example of how to achieve this) a club rating as opposed to a USFS rating to avoid liability
- (48, 68) Short-term. installation of roll over cattle guards and get a map of complaints from USFS regarding gates and cattle guards with volunteer efforts to implement installation of better gates.
- (7) Mid-term. QR Code would be great with linking all relevant information around OHV/ATV
  - Organized effort across all groups to try and support creation of this QR Code
- (35,8,9) Mid-term. Presentations at schools would be good to help younger riders/users learn proper trail edict- tread lightly, map reading, spill kits, etc. clubs are putting this together to try and help younger riders and public get this info better and there is a current event on May 14th to help this, kids welcome.
- New: Additional fines imposed by vendor if user breaks rules on top of USFS fines
- (13) Create letter to send out of state to other state’s groups/organization to make sure users are aware of the rules & regs in the Black Hills specifically. On-Going!
- (57, 50-55, 70-71, 82,) Mid-to long-term. Double down on marking trails appropriately, marking trails with riding experience level, etc.

**Law Enforcement Breakout Group Results**

- (11) Mid-term. Foster relationships to the county level to help out with FS enforcement, need more funding to help extend the season enforcement
- (12) Long-term. Weight restrictions are a difficult to implement due to possible location issue, how to tell where riders are going or not going
(29) Mid-term. Not an LE function but needed! State or Partner activity. Who to call or a tip line calls, but a tip line does not necessarily mean that its more effective (wildlife tips vs 911 calls are the same), people might become confused on who to call to report violation. No Tip Line needed: just call 911 since dispatch is connected to USFS. More cooperation between counties and USFS, as well as more USFS LE staff is needed.

- A presence of USFS people out on the trails is an effort by Black Hills FS to try and relieve local law enforcement efforts (public engagement by the Trail Rangers) and this effort is an ongoing process for USFS

(39) Short-term. Better communications from the USFS .... reduce dead end routes and increase the connection of routes, and this can be solved through good communication between law enforcement and the USFS

- Improved communication system to be aware of trail changes and other issues

(42) Long term. Yes, but not an LE issue.

(44) Long-term. Yes, but not an LE function. Concerns with sheriff and county commissioners: budget, schedules, existing funds, etc. USFS hiring law enforcement staff to help, problems can be created due to the cyclical nature of seasonal hiring and there are a lot of other parties needed

(46) Toss out the window. The decibel readers are not going to be an issue that law enforcement want to enforce, way too difficult to enforce (specifically when considering the Rally) just not realistic and way too burdensome for local and USFS enforcement

(66) Long term - Issues for counties, state, federal.....fine amounts too low, but law enforcement cannot solve it on their own. This is a legislative process across the levels of the governments and there are restrictions on the level of fines between county and state (county fine cannot exceed state level of any given fine)

(69) Short-term. Need better communications from USFS Trail Rangers, mainly for safety of Rangers. A lot of enforcement people are out there trying to do good work, but communication across the agencies/enforcement groups know where people are located within the Hills. USFS could communicate better with local agencies to ensure safety and access

(75) Short and Mid-term. Need to have an implementation plan/method to let local enforcement agencies know which gates are closed when and why, possibly create a list like method and then communicate it (who to go to specifically?)

**Vendors/Rental Companies Breakout Group Results**
(3) Relates especially to vendors/dealers. This is ongoing. Has been happening and will continue.

(10). Vendors/Rental companies support this. Want to create a “Friends of the Black Hills” group to raise funds for NEPA and other issues. Easier than going through the USFS.

(34). Vendors/Rental companies support this. This is relevant more for groups that don’t go through rentals. Have a process: here’s a QR code, take this test, I give you a permit.

(36). Companies want to guide, very much. Barrier: USFS regulations need to be altered, terminology simplified and generally guiding needs to be enabled by USFS to protect the environment, machines, etc.

(86). This relates to Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association. They are not present in the process but there needs to be a video that is attached to the link, with Q&A/FAQ’s section, available online in a streamlined system. Individual efforts to try and handle online education. Standardization is needed with USFS approval.

(87). Same as 86. Self-policing with a vendor by vendor, rental co by rental co. System for fines, could benefit from an Association approach to address the issue. Use GPS devices to help support users.

(88). Vendors/rental companies and the USFS. Creation of association would be very key to this issue.

(89). Something for USFS to consider. Change “accountability” to “training”.

(90). Vendors, rental co’s, USFS and clubs. More of a club-based issue as opposed to vendor focus.

**Other Interests Breakout Groups**

Education aspect of the OHV issues here in the Black Hills with two core ideas/things (7, 16, 29, 32, 48, 45, 65, 64, 70, 88) an improved central messaging system would be a big thing because there are a lot of people working on rider education through a lot of different ways

- Simplified version of education for trails (ten trail commandments) 30 seconds should be the goal in terms of education efforts and creativity is key in this new messaging (QR code cannot just go straight to the pamphlet).
- Lots of stakeholders involved and there is a need for one Map, so every user and group knows what’s going on in the Hills with this master map with specific, update-able information for any App. E.g. white nose syndrome which is lethal for bats, is spread by humans going into caves, especially in the winter when bats hibernate.
- Permit tags that are larger with P=Private and R=Rental, located in a very visible manner. This relates to call in Tip Line.
- Enforcement in a system that is difficult (must be easy to comply).
  - Connect dead end trails.
  - Improve messaging – how to follow the rules
  - Clarified issue around width – signs.
- Private land owners who block access – need better LEO access.
- Recreation easements - $ to land owners to gain access.
  - Motorcycle type endorsement for license to operate – commercial license plates for commercial rental OHV units.
  - Education for when you enter the system and at each decision point – identify decision points.
    - Ten OHV Commandments – 30 seconds.
    - Bill boards
    - South Dakota entity - Make it easier to get map and be accurate google url/pdf/updateable and publish. Keep it simple, onyx technology.
  - 10 OHV Commandments – Brown signs with message:
    - Stay on road or trail (designated)
    - Speed - go slower
    - Pack out trash
    - Trail courtesy: yield to non-motorized.
    - 1-800-OHV-Bust: Protect the Black Hills
    - Get the map (Avenza) SD Tourism
    - Permit – Get it.
    - Safety.
    - Respect wildlife and livestock.
    - Alcohol – zero tolerance for the operator.
  - Add fire extinguishers.

- Collaboration Discussion
  - Creation of a steering committee would be the start of a larger collaborative working group
    - Who could fund, who will participate, etc.
  - Participants supported the formation of a collaborative “Black Hills Recreation Coalition” with focus on the OHV to start with
  - Training aimed at collaboration in October/November with the USFS