



==== ACSA E-News ====



Recreational Trails Program

Ever wonder where the Federal Highway Gas Tax goes every time you fill your sled? It goes into a special fund - the Recreational Trails Program. Based on a formula, these dollars get sent back to each state for distribution to trails.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota recently introduced the RTP Full Funding Act of 2018 (S. 3604). This legislation will require a study to determine the best available estimate of the total amount of non-highway recreational fuel taxes. The Coalition for Recreational Trails, of which the ACSA is an active participant, requested the legislation as a step toward increasing the federal funding for trail construction and maintenance. The coalition is encouraging other senators to cosponsor this bill.

LAND ACCESS ISSUES

Utah Roadless Rule

Utah Governor Herbert is planning to ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture for permission to thin forests, clear out dead trees and do controlled burnings on protected areas that account for nearly half of national forest lands in the state.

The Governor is seeking to adjust how the U.S. Forest Service's Roadless Area Conservation Rule is applied in the state to allow for better state influence over national forests following a particularly brutal wildfire season.

The effort is intended to give forest managers the flexibility they need for projects to make forests more resilient and protect watersheds, air quality and wildlife habitat.

California National Forests

Five National Forests in California are currently progressing through the Over Snow Vehicle process. This process will designate areas and trails that will be available for snowmobiling.

The Plumas National Forest has just released their DEIS. The DEIS is now available for review and comments. Comments will be accepted through December 10th.

The DEIS is online at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47124.

The Eldorado National Forest released the FEIS and ROD this week. Comments will be accepted until December 17th.

The document can be reviewed at:

https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Final-Environmental-Impact-Statement-Features-New-Preferred-Alternative-for-Over-snow-Vehicle-Use-Designation-on-the-Eldorado-Na.html?soid=1118922714849&aid=_E5-wAsxEf0

Changing Places ~ ~ Changing Faces

David Vela was nominated to serve as the **National Park Director** in August. He currently serves as Grand Teton National Park Superintendent. A seasoned National Park Service leader, Mr. Vela has served at every level of the organization with

distinction throughout his career. He has a long track record of leadership on behalf of the people and places of the National Park Service.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has scheduled a full hearing for the nomination of Mr. Vela on Thursday, November 15 at 10 am EST.

In case you missed it....

Before the Senate left Washington for campaigning, they set up a few issues to deal with in the upcoming lame duck session.

The Department of the Interior is waiting for their final appropriations for FY 2019. This budget includes all of the public lands. Staffers from the Senate/House Natural Resources Committees are already having informal conversations about the makeup of an omnibus public lands bill.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

NOV 2 - 4

Snowmobile USA Show & Sale: Novi, MI

The doors to the World's LARGEST Indoor Snowmobile Show open THIS FRIDAY! Start making your shopping and destination lists!

NOV 2- 4

40th Annual Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs Annual Convention - Rockford, IL

Avalanche Seminars

Nov. 3: Ski-Doo Avalanche Awareness Seminar, Specialty Recreation, Coeur d'Alene, ID

Nov. 4: Ski-Doo Avalanche Awareness Seminar, Power World, Granby, CO

Nov. 6: Ski-Doo Avalanche Awareness Seminar, Ray's Sport and Cycle, Grand Rapids, MN

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