



## OHV Clubs “Step up to the Plate” for San Bernardino National Forest Adopt-a-Trail Program

- 1995-present
- San Bernardino National Forest
- Partners: OHV clubs, San Bernardino National Forest Association

### Project description

*Two hundred miles of 4-wheel drive roads and OHV trails in the San Bernardino National Forest receive regular maintenance through the forest’s Adopt-a-Trail Program—a partnership with OHV clubs and the nonprofit San Bernardino National Forest Association.*



Volunteers clear a Forest road.  
Photo courtesy San Bernardino National Forest.

Each year, 39 OHV clubs muster 2,500 volunteers to remove brush and clear fallen trees, maintain water bars and drainage structures, protect sensitive areas, remove traces of off-trail use, and install and maintain trail markers and signage. The forest helps with larger projects such as repairing major washouts. Twelve volunteers are certified to operate bulldozers, front loaders and backhoes, and are licensed to drive Forest Service trucks to haul heavy equipment.

Greg Hoffman, San Bernardino National Forest OHV Manager, negotiates a volunteer agreement with each club and renews it annually. The clubs follow a detailed Adopt-A-Trail Road Maintenance Plan (<http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/roads/documents/AAT-RoadMaintenancePlan.rtf>) developed by the ranger districts.

The San Bernardino National Forest Association finds business sponsors (through the Sponsor-a-Trail Program) to donate cash to purchase equipment, (i.e. chainsaws), used by volunteers.

### Benefits

Benefits to the Forest and to FS road maintenance:

- Hazards are removed from public rights-of-way and liabilities are reduced.
- Safety is Increased and operator risks are reduced on OHV routes.
- 200 miles of roads and trails are maintained at Level II OHV status.
- Volunteers learn ethical use of OHV roads and trails, act as stewards of adjacent forest land, and monitor other OHV users.
- Roads would not be maintained if not for this partnership.

Benefits to OHV clubs:

- OHV users gain access to well-maintained OHV-designated forest roads and trails.
- The Adopt-a-Trail program helps add structure to the OHV clubs by providing them with well-organized service projects and a stewardship focus.

Benefits to the San Bernardino National Forest Association:

- Supporting the Adopt-a-Trail Program helps the Association achieve its mission to develop partnerships that create opportunities for Sponsors to support conservation, education, and recreation on the forest.

### Keys to success

The forest has dedicated 1.0 FTE to the Adopt-a-Trail Program, which has given Hoffman the time necessary to take responsibility for the extensive OHV road and trail network, work safely with the clubs and volunteers, and coordinate with ranger districts to keep maintenance plans and volunteer agreements up-to-date and make sure that all work is completed according to the Forest Service handbook. Hoffman carefully screens each club before accepting them into the program. "I look for clubs that have a 'tread-lightly' philosophy, are family-oriented, and active in community service," says Hoffman.

### Types of agreements

Form FS-1800-8, Volunteer Agreement with each club, renewed annually  
Annual Road/Trail Maintenance Plans

### Project costs and contributions

- San Bernardino National Forest provides the annual salary for the National Forest OHV manager; \$10,000 from the FS force account for volunteer supplies; and \$40,000 in California State OHV grant for costs of operating FS equipment (mileage, hours on vehicle, etc.)
- OHV clubs provide 14,000 hours of volunteer time and donate some equipment to the San Bernardino National Forest Association for use on Adopt-a-Trail projects.
- San Bernardino National Forest Association seeks out sponsors through the Sponsor-a-Trail Program.

### More information

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Drain arming.  
Photo courtesy San Bernardino National Forest.

Find this story and more at the Partnership Resource Center website: <http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/roads/success-stories.php>

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