

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 3, 2010
Contact: Megan Foucht
Marketing Manager
National Forest Association
(909) 744-9510 x124
mfoucht@fs.fed.us



More than 30,000 Volunteer Hours Recorded by National Forest Association OHV Program

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – For the second time in the program's history, more than 30,000 volunteer hours have been logged by members of the National Forest Association's Off Highway Vehicle Volunteer Program in one year. These volunteer hours have an estimated dollar-value of nearly \$700,000 in support of conservation and land management efforts across the San Bernardino National Forest. The Program fields more than 300 dedicated volunteers.

"We are very fortunate to have the volunteers that we do," said National Forest Association Director Sarah Miggins. "I am constantly amazed at their passion and dedication."

Within that 30,000 hours volunteers patrolled thousands of miles of trail and made numerous contacts with forest visitors. If one individual were to try and accomplish the same amount of work it would take them more than 14 years working a full-time job.

"It takes a lot of time and energy to be a volunteer with the OHV Program," said OHV Volunteer Program Director Rick Lavello. "All of our volunteers use their own vehicles and are responsible for maintenance and gas expenses, but they do it because they truly love what they do and want to share that enthusiasm with others."

OHV Volunteers greet fellow OHV enthusiasts, share information about back-country travel on public land managed by the Forest Service, and assist in handling emergencies. While they carry no law enforcement authority to enforce regulations they use their influence - a product of their experience and training - to encourage responsible off-highway travel and create a culture of responsibility that will help promote continued access to public lands for off-road enthusiasts.

About the National Forest Association

The National Forest Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and key partner to the US Forest Service, is committed conservation, education and responsible recreation through a year-round portfolio of programming aimed at reaching Southern California's urban and mountain communities and visitor populations on public lands. Through partnerships and a strong volunteer backbone network, the National Forest Association brings communities of people, partners, and funding resources to important public lands projects focused on health, stewardship and sustainability.

About the OHV Volunteer Program

The Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Volunteer Program is one of 6 programs managed by the National Forest Association. The mission of the OHV Volunteer Program is to involve citizens in public land stewardship and information services. The OHV Volunteer Program partners with the Forest Service and is primarily funded by grants and corporate and private contributions. To find out about how you can support the OHV Volunteer Program, contact Rick Lavello at (562) 355-5538.