

1479  
CAHA

**Cobb, Ashley**

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**From:** Fox, Lori  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 05, 2008 2:38 PM  
**To:** Cobb, Ashley  
**Subject:** FW: NPS settles OHV lawsuit with enviro groups -- 05-29-2008 -- www.eenews.net

**Attachments:** pic03751.jpg; pic02019.gif



pic03751.jpg (22 KB) pic02019.gif (2 KB)

For CAHA admin record

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov [mailto:Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov]  
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2008 11:22 AM  
To: undisclosed-recipients  
Subject: Fw: NPS settles OHV lawsuit with enviro groups -- 05-29-2008 -- www.eenews.net

FYI

----- Forwarded by Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS on 05/30/2008 11:50 AM -----

Patrick Field  
<pfield@cbuilding.org>

To: Cyndy Holda <Cyndy\_Holda@nps.gov>  
CC:  
Subject: FW: NPS settles OHV lawsuit with

enviro groups

05/30/2008 11:41 AM AST

Cyndy

This might be worth emailing out to the Committee, FYI.

PAT

----- Forwarded Message

From: Mike Eng <eng@ecr.gov>  
Date: Thu, 29 May 2008 12:29:30 -0700  
To: Pat Field <pfield@cbuilding.org>, Robert Fisher <rcf@fisherics.com>, Ona Ferguson <oferguson@cbuilding.org>, Melinda Holland <holland@ecr.gov>, Larry Fisher <fisher@ecr.gov>  
Subject: Emailing: Public lands Park Service settles with enviro groups on limited OHV use -- 05-29-2008 -- www.eenews.net

15. PUBLIC LANDS: Park Service settles with enviro groups on limited OHV use (05/29/2008)

Eric Bontrager, Land Letter reporter  
This article first ran in E&ENews PM.  
<<http://www.eenews.net/pm/2008/05/22/>>

A trio of environmental groups announced last week that they have reached a settlement with the National Park Service over the damage caused by unregulated off-highway vehicle use on public lands.

The settlement ends a three-year-old court battle in which the groups -- Friends of the Earth's Bluewater Network, the National Parks Conservation Association and the Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads -- accused the agency of moving too slowly to develop regulations and education initiatives to limit the effects of OHV use on protected lands.

"We wanted to get something moving on the ground and wanted to make it happen as soon as possible, so settling was the best way to move forward," said Danielle Fugere of Friends of the Earth.

The settlement calls on NPS to implement a pilot public education and deterrence program to curb the illegal use of OHVs. The 10 parks will conduct special public outreach, education and enforcement activities over the next three years, including officer training and working to increase fines for illegal use.

If successful, the pilot program could serve as the model for similar programs at other parks.

The 10 national parks participating in the pilot program are: Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas; Death Valley National Park in California; Joshua Tree National Park in California; New River Gorge National River/Gauley River National Recreation Area in West Virginia; Ozark National Scenic Riverways in Missouri; Parashant National Monument in Arizona; Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in California; Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan; St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in Wisconsin; and Wupatki and Sunset Crater Volcano national monuments in Arizona.

The settlement requires NPS to follow the law and develop environmental impact statements and special rules governing the ongoing, legal use of OHVs at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Utah and Cape Lookout National Seashore in North Carolina.

"After all these years, we're very pleased to reach an agreement to preserve these wonderful places," said NPS spokesman David Barna.

NPS operates under an executive order from the 1970s that says OHVs are prohibited without a special park-specific regulation that involves an environmental assessment and public comment, as well as monitoring of use and effects. But OHV use and documentation of environmental effects have increased over the past decade (E&ENews PM  
<<http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2005/11/29/archive/3/>> , Nov. 29, 2005).

The groups filed a rulemaking petition in 1999 requesting NPS take action to prevent damage in national parks. Of more than 125 parks that either allow OHV use or reported illegal OHV activity, more than 75 said the vehicles have caused recognizable environmental effects, resource degradation or visitor use conflicts, according to a 2004 NPS survey the groups cited after initially filing suit.

Click here

<[http://www.eenews.net/features/documents/2008/05/22/document\\_pm\\_02.pdf](http://www.eenews.net/features/documents/2008/05/22/document_pm_02.pdf)> to view the settlement.

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