

## The Poker Ride is one week from today

There is no need to wait any longer, the swag is rolling in. Bring some extra cash to purchase the opportunity drawing tickets



[Register Here!](#)

We are soliciting nominations for President and Secretary for 2022 - 2023 (two year term), if you would like to be considered for either of these positions please email [President@SHAREMTB.com](mailto:President@SHAREMTB.com)

### From our friends at the Warrior Society

1. ACTION ALERT - THE FOREST SERVICE ACTION TO RESTORE HOLY JIM, TRABUCO AND WEST HORSE THIEF TRAILS TO BE DELAYED FOR YEARS.

We received the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Documents related to the reconstruction of the Holy Jim, Trabuco and West Horse Thief Trails 2 months after requesting them. As we previously mentioned in our last action alert, after receiving an unsatisfactory response from Darrell Vance regarding when the trails would be rebuilt I replied to him on June 16th that we were going to start a political campaign to get the trails built. I followed up with the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request on July 1st asking for all documents related to the rebuilding of the Holy Jim, Trabuco and West Horse Thief Trails. One of the very telling documents in the FOIA request is an email sent by Jake Rodriguez (the 2nd in charge) on July 1st of this year stating that the rebuilding of these trails was a priority - it became a priority after I threatened a political campaign on June 16th and sent the FOIA request the same day Jake sent this email. Their reconstruction was never mentioned as a priority prior to that memo from Jake Rodriguez on July 1st of this year.

It seems that what is delaying the construction is, funding (poor funding application), manpower, assessments, NEPA study, etc. The first assessment/phase is projected to begin this month. The project will be in three phases, the last being construction. It is projected to take up to 2 years to complete, but knowing the Forest Service, 5 years +. Only in passing do the documents mention making use of volunteers as labor, and comically, the funding documents mention that "youth groups" would provide additional funding. What youth groups? Why wasn't the Warrior's Society and the Sierra Club, who have worked for years maintaining these trails, not mentioned? Is Darrell, the District Ranger, so out of touch he doesn't even realize who is maintaining his trails? This shows the lack of effort in applying for funding.

Why wasn't the public informed, and why didn't Darrell tell the public it would take up to two years to complete their reconstruction? With all personal pulled when major fires occur, and a never ending fire season, when will they have the time to devote manpower to the project, let alone completing the assessments; they don't project the delay in time they will lose when they are pulled from this project when a fire occurs. That's why my projection is 5 years. It took them 3 years to even start the assessment, which I previously mentioned will begin this month.

In addition, large area closures and fire closures are extremely rare in the Forest Service once the fire is at a stage the public will not get in the way of operations areas are opened if they were ever closed. Also a fire closure over 2 years is almost unheard of! Other things we noticed in reviewing the documents is there was no public information on the status of the closure. On the CNF facebook page when the public would ask about the trails the public information officer gave very elitist replies such as the more you ask about the closed trails the longer it will take us to open them; this shocked us.

Millions of dollars went into things the public does not care about with in the burn scar such as killing fig trees (in Holy Jim) which are not a noxious weed so I am unsure of why? As I previously stated, in the documents they mention an assessment which still has not started. It has been many years with no progress. I also think many documents are missing from the FOIA request.

They mention applying for great American outdoors act funds and not getting them as a reason they could not start. Looking at the application it was done with extreme incompetence. For one they requested money for the NEPA process when this funding only addresses backlogged maintenance not planning costs. Second the law is to address deferred maintenance - so for project to be considered for funding the amount requested would at the very least have to be close to the amount of deferred maintenance. They asked for near a million dollars for \$14,000 in deferred maintenance - so this would never be approved. The reality is there is probably millions in deferred maintenance considering the infrastructure has not been used or worked on in years. I think this is incompetence - but lack of effort in applying for funding makes me think it could be intentional.

More info on this law:

<https://www.FS.fed.us/managing-land/gaoa>. As previously mentioned, things to know about this multi phase process it could easily take 5 years. Also the NEPA process (which is a study to determine if any endangered species or resources will be negatively affected by the action of reconstructing the trails) contains many alternatives not just the preferred alternative and also contains a no action alternative so nothing could happen or a much lesser desired outcome could be selected. From looking at the documents (and knowing the Forest Service) a lot has to fall into place for them to reach their projected time table of 2 years - that's why I believe it could take as long as 5 years.

They need funding and manpower. We can ask our representatives for funding and we can provide the manpower. It seems to be a good solution to cut through this bureaucracy. The opening of these trails are NOT a priority, if the trails were a priority, it would not take them 5 to 7 years to give them back to the public.

The FOIA documents we received will be emailed to anyone requesting them.

We will be having an "open the trails" rally at the "Luge N Brews" event on October 16th. Please support the event and our efforts to get our trails back for the publics use.

IF YOU WANT THESE TRAILS RESTORED IT WILL BE UP TO THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT THIER REPRESENTATIVES TO ASK FOR FUNDING AND TO FORCE THE FOREST SERVICE TO TREAT THIER RESTORATION AS A PRIORITY - AND TO SEEK THE HELP OF THE VOLUNTEER GROUPS WHO HAVE MAINTAINED THESE TRAILS FOR YEARS. ACTIONS TO TAKE:

1. Email Nathan Judy, the Forest Service PIO (public information officer ) and let him know you have no confidence in Darrell Vance as district ranger for the Trabuco District:

[nathan.judy@usda.gov](mailto:nathan.judy@usda.gov)

Here is the information you need to contact your representatives:

Find your California State Representative: <https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>

Find your congressman: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Senator Dianne Feinstein: <https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public>

Senator Alex Paddilla: <https://www.padilla.senate.gov>

Orange County Board of Supervisors member Lisa Barlett, whose 5th district includes the canyon areas of Orange County: [Lisa.Bartlett@ocgov.com](mailto:Lisa.Bartlett@ocgov.com) (714) 834-3550

We will also be sending out the Executive Board member election for President and Secretary email in December. you must be a current member to vote so click the link below to join or renew.

[Join SHARE Mountain Bike Club](#)

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**Protect the Trails you Love to Ride!**



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