



SEASONAL VIEW

Fall Is Certainly in the Air!



PUBLIC LANDS

Forest Service Roadless Rule

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule was controversial when it was instituted in 2001 and continues to be debated today. The proposal would repeal the rule, which prohibits roadbuilding and many forms of forest management on approximately 45 million acres of national forest land.

Supporters argue that these areas should be actively managed to reduce wildfire risks. Others worry that new roads could harm forests that support vulnerable wildlife, drinking-water supplies and other environmental benefits.

400,000
road miles by the 1990s

\$7 BILLION
deferred maintenance

80 MILLION
acres needing restoration

Idaho and Colorado developed state-specific rules with the Forest Service that allow temporary roads for fire-prevention and ecosystem-restoration projects. The current proposal would support new state petitions.

Many inventoried areas are not truly roadless; some have been cut over and many have burned. [View the Roadless Areas map.](#)

Comments are due October 6. [Submit comments through Regulations.gov.](#)



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Barred Owls vs. Northern Spotted Owls

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has authorized the killing of nearly half a million invasive barred owls across Oregon, Washington and California in an effort to keep the northern spotted owl from extinction.

Oregon has contracted a company to remove up to 350 barred owls during the next year on an 83,000-acre state-owned property, following the federal management strategy.

Environmentalists have fought for decades to protect northern spotted owls, which nest primarily in old-growth forests. Those legal efforts led to the owl’s 1990 listing as threatened and the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, which sharply reduced logging on federal lands in Oregon and Washington.

The strategy has created an unusual mix of allies and opponents while raising difficult questions about managing one owl species to protect another.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

A New State Gas-Tax Method?

The Michigan Department of Transportation awarded a \$6.3 million contract for a feasibility study and pilot program examining a road-usage charge—a per-mile fee intended as a possible replacement for taxes paid at the pump.

The pilot will study technical feasibility, public acceptance, outreach, legislative engagement and whether a mileage-based system could work in Michigan. The contractor already sells pay-per-mile tax systems.

Michigan gas tax	\$0.534 per gallon
Federal gas tax	\$0.184 per gallon
Highest state rate	California — \$0.736
Lowest state rate	Alaska — \$0.0895

The six-month pilot is scheduled to begin in February 2027. [Read more about road-usage charges.](#)

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

International Snowmobile Hall of Fame



The Class of 2026
Driftrunners Snowmobile Club — Iowa • Larry Traxler — Oregon • Fred Bailey — Montana • Mike and Cheryl Clevenger — Minnesota • Greg and Diane Hiles — South Dakota • Ila and Lowell Morton — Pennsylvania • José Boisjoli — BRP

Ila Morton—pictured receiving the ISHOF award with her daughter—was inadvertently omitted from last week’s photos. Thank you, Ila, for all you and Lowell have done for snowmobiling!



ONLINE EDUCATION

ACSA SnowBusiness: Are You Beeping?

Erik Olson, the new owner of Are You Beeping?, will review avalanche-equipment fundamentals during a 30-minute presentation followed by questions and answers.

Wednesday, October 28
8 p.m. Eastern • 7 p.m. Central
6 p.m. Mountain • 5 p.m. Pacific

[Register for the Zoom presentation](#)

CAPITOL UPDATE

Sayonara, U.S. Senate and House

Capitol Hill is largely empty until after the election, with several major items left for the lame-duck session. These include the annual defense authorization bill, expired surveillance authorities and 12 funding bills. Government funding ends December 11.

When the Senate returns, it will have only eight legislative days in November and 14 in December to complete its agenda.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / NOTE
Oct. 2-3	Big East Power Show / New York Board Meeting	Syracuse
Oct. 3	Montana Board Meeting	Helena
Oct. 5	ISMA Grant Applications Deadline	
Oct. 6	Roadless Rule Comments Due	Federal deadline
Oct. 23-25	Minnesota Fall Workshop	Alexandria
Oct. 23-25	Wisconsin Fall Workshop	Manitowoc
Oct. 24	MISORVA Annual Meeting	Gaylord
Nov. 6-8	Illinois Convention	Galena
Nov. 6-8	Novi Snow Show	Novi, MI
Nov. 20-22	Iowa Convention	Clear Lake
Nov. 20-22	Nebraska Convention	Kearney
Dec. 3-5	South Dakota Convention	Aberdeen
Jan. 22-23	Idaho Convention	Burley
Feb. 3-7	ACSA Trails Meet & Ride	Siren, WI
Feb. 15-21	ACSA Mountain Summit	West Yellowstone

[Submit Roadless Rule comments by October 6](#) • [View maps](#)



BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY

Avalanche Awareness Seminars

DATE	DEALERSHIP	LOCATION
Oct. 13	Summit Motorsports	Bozeman, MT
Oct. 14	Elevated Powersports	Billings, MT
Oct. 15	Beaverhead Motors	Dillon, MT
Oct. 16	Gull Boats	Missoula, MT
Oct. 22	Mies Outland	St. Cloud, MN
Oct. 23	Minneapolis Motorsports	Minneapolis, MN
Oct. 27	Big Pine	Fairview, UT
Oct. 28	Young Powersports	Logan, UT
Oct. 29	Weller Recreation	Kamas, UT
Nov. 3	Frank May Rev Motorsports	Honeyville, UT
Nov. 4	Ultimate Powersports	Preston, ID
Nov. 5	Rexburg Motorsports	Rexburg, ID
Nov. 6	REV Motorsports	Idaho Falls, ID
Nov. 11	Dennis Dillon	Boise, ID
Nov. 12	Mile High Powersports	McCall, ID
Dec. 1	Mankato Motorsports	Mankato, MN

All avalanche seminars begin at 6:00 p.m.

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