



UTAH PUBLIC LANDS ALLIANCE

Preserving Public Lands for Public Use

MEMO TO ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE SAND MOUNTAIN OPEN OHV AREA

Attached is a copy of a letter being sent to Robert Brennan, the developer who has been attempting to arrange a swap of land he owns in the Desert Tortoise Habitat area of Washington County for 1,200 acres of land located in the Sand Mountain "open" area. This is being shared with you because of your expressed interest in preserving Sand Mountain the way it has been for these past many years.

As reflected in our letter, our purpose is to impress upon Brennan the extent of the opposition to his effort to make this land grab and to make clear to him that he is going to be faced with legal, procedural and public opposition if he chooses to proceed with his efforts.

Your encouragement and support of UPLA in our challenge to Brennan is most appreciated and important. We must expect that there will be other attempts to diminish open travel areas in Utah and elsewhere. Success in this present battle will evidence to other opponents of open land that future efforts to close trails in Utah will be met with aggressive resistance.

With best wishes for happy open travel in Utah.

Sincerely,

Gil Meacham
President, UPLA



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April 13, 2015

Robert Brennan
P.O. Box 1991
Sun Valley, Idaho 83353

Dear Mr. Brennan,

As you are likely aware, your proposed acquisition of 1,200 acres of the Sand Mountain Reserve has generated enormous controversy in Washington County. There are thousands who have been using that land for many years for its designated purpose as an "open" recreational area who are registering vociferous objection to any encroachment on this land.

The language of the Resource Management Plan of 1999 states in part:

"...lands within this SRMA...will be maintained in public ownership to provide long-term stability for user groups such as the OHV community who...have lost much of their traditional open use areas."

At one time all of Washington County was considered as "open" area. Piece after piece has been appropriated for other uses or closed to recreational vehicles. Users are saying this has gone too far and they are not going to stand idly by and let this remaining area be carved up for other uses, whether it's by you or by anyone else.

Utah Public Lands Alliance exists to preserve public access to designated public lands. Thousands of individuals as well as all organized recreational user groups in Utah and surrounding states are dedicated to the support of our mission as it pertains to Sand Mountain Recreation Area (SMRA). Every conceivable legal means available will be utilized to prevent any incursion on the remaining SMRA including widespread publicity and public demonstrations.

As you would well know, the existing Resource Management Plan requires amendment if any of the existing land is to be exchanged or sold. The process for achieving any amendment of the RMP is one that can take many years to clear the many hurdles that must be surmounted. You can be assured that every possible objection to any amendment affecting the SMRA will be vigorously registered.

We welcome further development in Washington County but there are numerous areas other than Sand Mountain where that can be done. The purpose of this letter is to make it clearly understood that we have the determination, the resources and the public support to challenge and prevent any amendment of the existing RMP which would reduce or interfere with the open riding area of the SMRA.

All interests, including yours, ours and those of the general public will be better served by changing your plans and seeking an exchange of property other than property within the Sand Mountain area. However, if you continue to seek property within the designated SMRA, *Utah Public Lands Alliance* and our allies will aggressively fight to maintain the existing SMRA that has been firmly in place on Sand Mountain for these many years.

We wish you well in your other endeavors but we stand firmly opposed to your proposed exchange of land on Sand Mountain. Also opposed are the majority of mayors of the municipalities in Washington County.

Copies of this letter are being shared with the parties listed below. This constitutes a partial list of the organizations that are supporting us in this matter.

If you have any questions or would care to have discussion of this matter we would be open to meeting with you personally. We are not interested in any further discussion with your man Jim Raines.

Sincerely yours,

Gil Meacham, President

Dr. William Christensen, Chairman

cc:

The majority of mayors of Washington County
 North American Motorized Recreation Council
 Back Country Horsemen Of Utah
 At Your Leisure Syndicated Television Productions
 Off Road Sports Hall of Fame
 Vegas Valley 4 Wheelers
 Family Motor Coach Assoc. 4x4 Club
 American Motorcyclist Association
 Tri State All Terrain Vehicle Club
 California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs
 California Off Road Vehicle Association
 East Coast Four Wheel Drive Association
 Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association
 Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition

Washington County Farm Bureau
 BlueRibbon Coalition
 Utah 4 Wheel Drive Association
 Krawl Zone Network
 4x4Wire.com
 Desert Roads And Trails Society
 Wizards Motorcycle Club
 Partners In Conservation
 Red Rock 4-Wheelers Inc.
 California Rock Crawler Association
 Toyota Land Cruiser Association
 American Land Access Association
 North American XJ Association