

Backroad Explorers Desert Protection Act Road Preservation Recommendations

The Backroad Explorers (BRE) was a Committee of the Angeles Chapter Sierra Club. The BRE was begun in 1987. Their goal was to explore and inventory the roads that would be impacted by the Desert Protection Act and provide positive, needed input to the Sierra Club.

In July of 1989, five officers of the BRE formally presented the BRE "Route Preservation List" to the Sierra Club (SC) Angeles Chapter Executive Committee.

In September of 1989, the "Route Preservation List" was distributed to all BRE members for further input and refinement. The SC Angeles Chapter Executive Committee immediately demanded the following retraction; "Notice is hereby given that the Backroad Explorers Activity Committee has approved no such list and has made no such recommendations. The list was prepared by an individual and does not represent the position of the Backroad Explorers, Angeles Chapter, or the Sierra Club." The BRE could not honestly comply with this demand and were suspended in November of 1989. It wasn't until February of 1990 that the BRE was reinstated with the list intact.

In March 1991, with unanimous support of the BRE Officers, an updated "Road Preservation Recommendations" list was sent to 18 key officers of the SC. In response, the SC Angeles Chapter Executive Committee replaced the Officers of the BRE.

The "Desert Protection Act Road Preservation Recommendations" list was introduced and distributed by Neal Johns and Robert Jaussaud at the California Desert Protection Act and California Public Lands Wilderness Act: hearing before the Subcommittee on General Oversight and California Desert Lands of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House of

Representatives, One Hundred Second Congress, first session,
on H.R. 2929 ... H.R. 3066 ... hearing held in Washington, DC,
September 16, 1991.