

SPORTS

FRONTIER 500 RECEIVES BLM APPROVAL VETERAN OFF-ROADER WINS TOP FRONTIER 500 SPOT

Government approval to stage the off-road race from Las Vegas to Reno in hand, Frontier 500 officials have launched into final preparations for the October 13-18 event, with special attention paid to the conduct of racers and spectators.

"The Bureau of Land Management has spent at least a year going over every detail of the race plan," said High Desert Racing Association President Walt Lott, elated over the issuance of the BLM permit. "During that time we've attempted to attend to the concerns of interested citizens throughout the state. Often this meant changing the original race course, but we were happy to do this as long as our efforts helped make this an event Nevadans can be proud of."

The Frontier 500, ex-

pected to attract between 500 and 600 vehicles, is a Coors Off-Road Series race sponsored by the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, the Peppermill Inn and Casino in Reno and by Datsun.

The BLM issued its approval of the race course on Friday, Aug. 20, with the government officials stating that concerns of environmentalists have been addressed and dealt with.

Officials of the race have placed the conduct of the drivers, race support groups and spectators at the top of a priority list in order to show that environmentalists' concerns are unfounded.

Curt Thompson, executive vice president of the Frontier Hotel, told a gathering of drivers at the drawing for starting positions Aug. 21 that they must show respect for the

land, plantlife and wildlife and that the drivers must remain on the authorized race course.

The approximately 530-mile course through western Nevada consists mainly of existing dirt roads, with some dry washes and dry lakes.

In a letter to participants at the front of the official map book for the Frontier 500, Lott pulled no punches, threatening disqualification for those who stray from the race course or set up pits in unauthorized areas.

"... There is enough room for everybody but each and every individual must respect the rights of other citizens to enjoy the land," Lott wrote. "Officials of the various offices of the BLM throughout Nevada have been extremely cooperative in helping to plan the inaugural Frontier 500. but in

order to protect the interests of others who regularly use the land and to protect plant and wildlife resources, the BLM, in return, is asking for special cooperation from the Frontier 500 staff and the racers and spectators.

"Extraordinary care must be taken by every racer to stay on the marked course — not only during the race, but also during pre-running," Lott's letter continued. "Spectators are asked to travel only on major highways and limit their viewing to designated areas within communities along the race route. Likewise, pits must also be set up only in those communities."

During the few weeks prior to the BLM's approval of the race, some individuals raised concerns about the event.

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