

## PICKUP TRUCKS

.....\$ as tested .....	MPG .....	HP .....	Torque
Ford F-150 4x4 SuperCab 2.7L V6 EcoBoost	.....\$43,460 .....	18/23 .....	325 .....375
GMC Canyon 4WD SLE Crew Short Box	.....\$39,090 .....	17/24 .....	305 .....269
Ram 1500 Outdoorsman Crew Cab 4x4 EcoDiesel	.....\$50,790 .....	19/27 .....	240 .....420
Toyota Tundra TRD Pro Crewmax 5.7L V8	.....\$46,259 .....	13/17 .....	381 .....401

Each manufacturer brought something special to this newest of Mudfest categories. The Ford F-150's aluminum build is its biggest news, though we found time to appreciate its stunning interior, too. GM has pleased a lot of people with two new midsize pickups—Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon—though they are not really all that small. The Ram 1500 EcoDiesel is a serial award winner, bagging trophies just about everywhere it goes. For an Outdoor Activity Vehicle event, the Ram Outdoorsman was a natural, with tow hooks, skid plates, active-leveling air suspension, on/off road tires and a full complement of tech and creature comforts. Toyota brought a TRD Pro version of its Tundra, surely the toughest Tundra we've driven. It takes a lot to shake off the brilliant spotlight shining on the new F-150 and the glow of the GMC midsize, and Ram did just that once again, as it has at one event after another: **Best Pickup: Ram 1500 EcoDiesel.**

## OVERALL WINNER

There is seldom any one right way to vote, although there are many useful ways to narrow things down. Ours agreed with the group's winner in four categories, and our second place choice won first in two others. On one, we were a clean miss. That suits us. (If we had a one hundred percent match, you'd know how we voted.) Mostly, it underscores the ultimately subjective nature of choice—as it will be when you head out to make your own purchase decision. Quite a few of the vehicles entered in this event have notably won other recent events with other criteria. One such repeat winner is this year's overall champ: the **Northwest Outdoor Activity Vehicle of the Year: Jeep Renegade Trailhawk 4x4.** ■

## VEHICLE IMPRESSION : 2015 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 SL

The midsize sedan segment was long the biggest seller and is still one of the hottest there is—appropriate as our transport during Mudfest, creating a counterpoint to the event's crossovers, which have now become the biggest selling segment. We used to think the Nissan Altima seemed a little underdone compared to the full-size Maxima. But both have evolved, and through the miracles of relativity, the current Nissan Altima now looks just right.

Our time and miles in the car were limited, but showed off Nissan's usual clear instruments and interface, a comfortable cabin and solid handling in the driving rain, and quick performance as we had ferries and planes to catch (this was the 182-hp four; there is also a 270-hp V6). Its CVT provided smooth and transparent power.

This SL is the top of four trims. Included features are extensive, and its few options are favorably priced.

The base Altima starts

at just \$22,300; a top V6 model starts at \$32,350. The four-cylinder is rated at 38 MPG highway. Our sample as outfitted strikes a great balance point in the lineup. Nissan Altima is a solid entry in a very crowded and competitive segment. ■

### 2015 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 SL

**INCLUDED:** ABS, traction control, dynamic control, electronic brake force distribution, alarm/immobilizer, Zero Gravity front seats, advanced display, leather-appointed seats and wheel, heated front seats, 8-way power driver's seat w lumbar, 4-way power passenger, cruise, Bose 9-speaker audio w 5" color display, rear camera, USB, NissanConnect w apps, Bluetooth phone, streaming audio, dual zone auto climate, rear A/C vents, keyless entry and start, remote start, dual illuminated vanity visors w extensions, HomeLink, 60/40 split rear seat, seatback pockets, auto headlights, fog lights, LED tail lights, heated manual fold mirrors w turn signals, chrome exhaust tips.

<b>BASE PRICE</b> .....	<b>\$28,150</b>
<b>MOONROOF PACKAGE:</b> (power/tilt) .....	800
<b>CARPETED FLOOR &amp; TRUNK MATS:</b> .....	210
<b>TECHNOLOGY PACKAGE:</b> Navigation with 7" touchscreen; blind spot, lane departure and moving object warning; SiriusXM Traffic and Travel Link .....	1090
<b>DESTINATION CHARGE:</b> .....	810
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$31,060</b>

