

MUDFEST WINNERS

Photos: Doug Berger / DBPics.com

This is an annual don't-miss event for us, except for this year, as something came up on the home front, and we had to cancel. Nonetheless, the results are of interest to all of us, as off-pavement-capable vehicle preferences in the Pacific Northwest inform our choices here in Arizona.

The two-day event is held at The Ridge Motorsports Park on the lower Olympic Peninsula of Washington, where members of NWAPA (the Northwest Automotive Press Association) evaluate a selection of vehicles in real-world conditions on engineered courses. Day One is paved, utilizing coned courses and a kart track (an exactly scaled version of their big track) to evaluate acceleration, handling, braking and road dynamics. Day Two is run on custom-engineered off-pavement courses in the Park's motocross area, focused on performance, traction, ground clearance, suspension articulation and advances in off-road tech.

What we don't know, by not going, is what the other vehicles entered were (which seems kind of like knowing who won the World Series or Super Bowl, without knowing who they played against, but this is their decision for this year). But we do know the winners:

TWO-ROW FAMILY SUV:

2025 Hyundai IONIQ 5 XRT

THREE-ROW FAMILY SUV:

2025 Jeep Wagoneer Series II Overland

LUXURY SUV:

2026 Genesis GV70 3.5T Sport Prestige

PICKUP TRUCK:

2025 Ram 1500 RHO Crew Cab 4x4

ELECTRIFIED ACTIVITY VEHICLE:

2025 Hyundai IONIQ 5 XRT

EXTREME CAPABILITY VEHICLE:

2025 Ram 1500 RHO Crew Cab 4x4

BEST VALUE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY VEHICLE:

2025 Subaru Forester Touring Hybrid

TITLE AWARD: NORTHWEST OUTDOOR ACTIVITY VEHICLE OF THE YEAR:

2025 Ram 1500 RHO Crew Cab 4x4

This truck had already been crowned in two categories—Best Pickup Truck and Best Extreme Capability Vehicle—before taking the top trophy.

Next up will be Drive Revolution in September, an open road paved performance event. ■

