

Proposed Rule for Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use
c/o Content Analysis Team
P.O. Box 221150
Salt Lake City, UT 84122-01150
Via e-mail: trvman@fs.fed.us

September 10, 2004

Dear Content Analysis Team,

I am an avid four wheeler and frequent forest visitor. As such, I am dedicated to working with the Forest Service to develop a workable policy to amend regulations regarding travel management on National Forest System lands, including the use of off-highway vehicles. Please accept my comments below.

- Please ensure that temporary, emergency closures are limited to a term of one year.
- In order to avoid the confusion of which class of vehicle(s) is designated for use on roads, trails, and areas, the term off-highway vehicle should be defined in Section 212.1 as: “Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain.”
- Please ensure that the responsible official thoroughly investigates opportunities for volunteers and cooperative agreements when considering the availability of resources for the maintenance and administration of designated OHV routes.
- Please ensure that the final rule, the Forest Service Handbook, or the Forest Service Manual directs the responsible official to consider amendments to the forest plan as part of the OHV designation project to ensure that needed changes to forest plans are not categorically considered “outside the scope of the project”.
- Please ensure that the policy is clear that the term “trail” does not by definition eliminate designed or managed use for 4-wheel drive vehicles and other vehicles over any particular width.
- Please ensure that the policy encourages each responsible official to conduct a robust inventory for all OHV route designation projects, including input from user groups and the public.
- Please ensure that segments of any road may be designated for use by non-street legal vehicles where appropriate to avoid blanket prohibitions of non-street legal OHV use on roads such as Level 3 roads.
- Please ensure that any trail may be designated for use by street legal vehicles where appropriate to avoid blanket prohibitions of street legal OHVs, particularly 4-wheel drive vehicles and SUVs, on all trails.

Thank you,

[Name]

[Address]

[Telephone number]