



NATURAL TRAILS & WATERS COALITION

April 12, 2004

Jack Troyer
Regional Forester – Intermountain Region
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

Dear Mr. Troyer:

Members of the conservation community welcomed the opportunity to meet with you and Glenn Casamassa on April 1 concerning the on-going effort to revise the Forest Service's off-road vehicle regulations. We appreciate your openness and willingness to continue to engage us on this important issue.

Following our discussion, I want to reiterate a few key points that we have highlighted in face-to-face meetings with and letters to the Forest Service beginning last year. In addition to other key reforms articulated previously, the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition believes that any proposed rule must contain the following core elements:

- 1) A two-year timeframe following enactment of any final rule during which roads and routes must be designated for use by off-road vehicles following site-specific analysis and public participation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). After this period ends, off-road vehicle use would only be allowed on roads and routes that have been designated in this process.
- 2) The proposal must also address the starting point for the designation process. Renegade routes created by users without authorization will be closed until full NEPA analysis is completed to determine whether they can be designated without endangering natural resources, public safety, and/or the experience of other users. Adopting any other approach would reward highly damaging, and in many cases, illegal use.
- 3) Parameters for the designation process which require individual forests to designate a system of roads and routes for off-road vehicle use that is:
 - a) based on a set of specific criteria designed to protect natural resources, wildlife, public safety, and the experiences of other forest users;
 - b) manageable based on availability of personnel, budgets and other relevant factors; and
 - c) conducted at the forest level in order to minimize inconsistencies and redundant routes between ranger districts, and to enable planners to carefully evaluate and avoid cumulative effects.

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The Natural Trails and Waters Coalition includes conservation, recreation, hunting, and other groups working to protect and restore all public lands and waters from the severe damage caused by dirt bikes, jet skis and all other off-road vehicles.