



Jack Troyer, Regional Forester
US Forest Service
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

June 2, 2004

RE: National OHV Initiative

Dear Regional Forester Troyer

I wanted to send a brief note to you regarding the Forest Service National OHV Initiative to reaffirm our support of the general concept of restricting OHV recreation to roads, designated trails and areas. We believe that unrestricted cross country travel on most National Forest lands is inappropriate.

However, we have strong qualifiers for our support of the initiative, concerns we have articulated in earlier communication with you, Chief Bosworth, and Marlene Finley of the Implementation Team. These qualifiers include, but are not necessarily limited to the following issues:

- Baseline analysis for route and area designation must start with all existing routes and areas of use, including system and non-system routes.
- No closures will be done without site-specific analysis and public participation. Emergency closures must only be used for specific sites that can be adequately justified by significant adverse impacts.
- Level 2 and 3 roads should be automatically designated for OHV use
- All analysis of routes and areas must include a full range of alternatives, including all entire existing route and area of use as the no action alternative.
- The range of alternatives must include expanding the system to accommodate the growth in OHV recreation and anticipating the continued growth.
- The Forest Service must dedicate more resources to OHV management. The problems identified by Chief Bosworth were blamed on "unmanaged OHV recreation", and we expect the agency to live up to their responsibility of managing the activity. Closure or reduction of opportunity should only be a last resort when mitigation measures are not possible and should never be done due to a lack of resources. The agency must ask for more recreation funding to show this is being taken seriously. Providing OHV recreation opportunities must be made a management priority.