

January 23, 2004

Jack Troyer, Regional Forester
USFS Intermountain Region
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401-2310

Dear Mr. Troyer:

Thank you and other members of the Policy Team on Off-Road Vehicles for taking the time to meet with several representatives of the conservation, hunting, fishing, and recreation communities on January 7 in Salt Lake City.

As discussed at that meeting, in previous conversations and letters, and in the 1999 rulemaking petition, we support strong regulations on the management of off-road vehicles throughout our nation's forests.

However, we are concerned that the regulatory process being undertaken by the Policy Team on off-road vehicles will not create incentives for land managers to designate motorized routes in a timely, ecologically, and socially responsible manner.

We are concerned that regulations which do not require decisive action will create confusion and entrench the status quo of unmanageable motorized recreation and the continued proliferation of "user-created routes."

We believe it is critical that if you are to undertake a regulatory process towards reforming off-road vehicle management that it must be substantive and result in new opportunities for Forest Service employees to truly manage and control the off-road vehicle problem on the ground. Without such substantive reform, it's very likely that opening up the existing regulations will only add to the present confusion that exists on the ground today.

We look forward to working with you to develop a meaningful regulatory approach that all of us can publicly support.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Hansen, Executive Director
Izaak Walton League of America

Jim Posewitz, Executive Director
Orion--The Hunters' Institute

Scott Stouder, Western Field Coordinator
Trout Unlimited