

## Wayne National Forest

### Administrative Correction # 5

Administrative corrections are defined at 36 CFR 219.7(b) (2008 Planning Rule) and may be made at any time and are not plan amendments or revisions, and do not require public notice or the preparation of an environmental document under Forest Service NEPA procedures.

Administrative corrections include the following:

1. Corrections and updates of data and maps;
2. Corrections of typographical errors or other non-substantive changes;
3. Changes in the monitoring program and monitoring information (§ 219.6(b));
4. Changes in timber management projections or other projections of uses or activities; and
5. Other changes in the plan document or set of documents that are not substantive changes in the plan components

The current Forest Plan definition of an ATV, located in Appendix A, page A-1, requires that the vehicle be: 50” or less in width; be straddled; and travel on 3 or more low pressure tires (see definition below). The ATV industry has developed vehicles which allow 2 persons to ride side-by-side, while still being less than 50” wide and still using low pressure tires. Under the current Forest Plan definition of an ATV these vehicles would not be allowed to ride on our designated ATV trails.

Current Forest Plan Definition of ATV:

**all terrain vehicle (ATV)** - Any motorized off-highway vehicle 50 inches or less in width, can be straddled, travels on 3 or more low-pressure tires (10 pounds per square inch (PSI) or less, or as recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.)

### **PROPOSAL**

Change the definition in the Forest Plan on page A-1, to remove the words requiring an ATV to be straddled.

Revised Forest Plan Definition of ATV:

**all terrain vehicle (ATV)** - Any motorized off-highway vehicle 50 inches or less in width and travels on 3 or more low-pressure tires (10 pounds per square inch (PSI) or less, or as recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.)

The Wayne and three of its ATV partners conducted a test ride of the Polaris 50” wide, side-by-side RZR<sup>®</sup> ATV on 10/6/08. The Forest had identified three main concerns to evaluate:

- 1) The long wheel base would be difficult to maneuver around tight corners and trail switchbacks, which may lead riders to short-cut designated trails and create alternate trails;
- 2) The heavier weight may cause greater trail impacts such as soil compaction, rutting, and erosion; and

3) The ATV's low ground clearance would bottom drag on high spots along the trail, thus tearing up the trail or the vehicle. Additionally, the ATV would become stuck and block the trail and create a safety hazard for riders.

Wayne Staff and volunteers took turns riding two Polaris RZR® ATVs on the Athens District's Purdum Loop ATV Trail. The trail is considered a "most difficult" trail on the OHV trail system.

As a result, we found the Polaris RZR® ATV to maneuver reasonably well on the trail, even around sharp turns and switchbacks. At bridge crossings, extra caution should be taken to "square-up" the vehicle before crossing due to the tight bridge width clearance. Most of the bridges are designed to accommodate vehicle widths of 50 inches or less. The RZR® traversed the ruts, rocks, and bumps remarkably well with only an occasional rubs, which is no more than any other standard size ATVs. With respect to vehicle heavy weight and its impact on the trail, we did not observe any additional soil displacement from the RZR® than compared to a traditional ATV. In fact, the RZR®'s longer wheelbase may help to better distribute its weight over a wider area of trail, thus mitigating impacts from weight.

The only change required by this administrative correction is to update the definition of an ATV which is included in Appendix A to the 2006 Forest Plan on page A-1.

Document Name	Page Number	Correction
2006 Forest Plan Appendix A	A-1	Definition of ATV changed; words "can be straddled" dropped from definition to allow for side-by-side ATV's that are still less than 50" wide and have low pressure tires.

Corrected Page A-1 is attached.

Approved by:



Jo Reyer  
Forest Supervisor  
Wayne National Forest



Date