



Updates From the Washington Office

House and Senate Hearings on OHV Management

The House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, held an oversight hearing on “The Impacts of Unmanaged Off-Road Vehicles on Federal Land” on March 13, 2008. Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, testified on behalf of the Forest Service. Three panels provided testimony. For a list of witnesses and their testimony, go to: http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=27&extmode=view&extid=151

A second hearing on off-highway vehicle (OHV) management on public lands was held by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on June 5, 2008. For a list of witnesses and their testimony, go to <http://energy.senate.gov/public/> and click on “Hearing Schedule/Hearing List.”

Motor Vehicle Use Map Production

The National Map Team has completed their review of suggestions from the regions for improvements to the Motor Vehicle Use Map. They are working on implementing many of those changes and updating the Production Guide in time for FY 2009 maps. Some changes that will improve the map may be implemented by the field sooner. These changes will be identified in a letter from the Washington Office in approximately the next 30 to 60 days. Completed Motor Vehicle Use Maps may be found at http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/ohv_maps.shtml.

Motor Vehicle Use Map Schedule Changes

Requests for schedule changes have been approved by the Chief for Regions 3, 4, 6, 8, and 9. Requests are pending for Region 2. Updated schedule spreadsheets will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/>.

Travel Management Directives

The directives are scheduled to be finalized this summer.

GAO Engagement

In March, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) began a review of OHV use on Federal lands. As part of the first phase (which is designing the review), they conducted an entrance interview in the Washington Office in March and visited the Cleveland National Forest in early April. The review will address trends in OHV use; reported environmental, human health, and safety impacts; allocation of resources for enforcing OHV-related laws and regulations; and related enforcement challenges.

Updates From the Field

The State of Colorado recently passed legislation that will assist the Forest Service in enforcing route and area designations for motor vehicle use. The law allows State peace officers to enforce those designations. For more information, contact Chris Spurl at 303-275-5168.

Helpful Resources

Public Participation Rapid Response Team

A national Public Participation Rapid Response Team was recently formed, composed of members from a number of regions, all levels of the agency, and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. The purpose of the team is to provide public participation advice and assistance to national forests and grasslands for implementation of the travel management rule. Requests for assistance may be made directly by a national forest, grassland, or ranger district to a member of the team. Please contact your regional Travel Management Coordinators for a list of team members.

Partnerships and Collaboration

The Partnership Resource Center Web site provides information helpful to units involved in public participation processes. The focus is on collaboration and includes success stories, tools and toolboxes, and available training. Go to <http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org>.

National Survey on Recreation and the Environment Update

A recent report titled “Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation in the United States and its Regions and States: An Update National Report from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE)” is available on the Web at <http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/nrrt/nsre/IRISRec%5CirisRec1.html>. Of particular interest, the update contains the most recent statistics available on off-highway vehicle participation rates and numbers of ATVs and off-highway motorcycles sold.

Grant Opportunities

Yamaha has some OHV grant opportunities available at http://www.yamaha-motor.com/outdoor/ohv_grants/ohv_grants_home.aspx.

Appropriate projects include:

- Trail development, restoration, and/or maintenance
- Trail mapping
- Trail signage
- Map production
- Safety and Education

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