United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20240

January 19, 2001

Dear Member of the Public,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is pleased to announce that the "National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Public Lands" (Strategy) was completed on January 19, 2001, and is available on the internet at www.blm.gov. Printed copies will be available by mid-February. If you provided comment to the BLM and gave us your address, you will automatically receive a postcard to complete and return, letting us know is you want a printed copy. If you did not provide us with your address previously and want a printed copy, please return the attached postcard or contact any BLM office in your area.

The public's interest and participation were appreciated and helped us to complete this Strategy. The attendance at the 49 "Listening Meetings" last summer, the responses to the "Outreach Effort," and the number of written and electronic comments submitted on the draft Strategy indicated the importance placed on off-highway recreational opportunities on public lands. The 90-day "Outreach Effort" yielded almost 5,000 comments, and the 30-day comment period for the draft Strategy generated over 14,000 responses. The number of comments and the intensity of interest in this issue are overwhelming, and we look forward to the continuation of this public commitment as we begin to work toward implementation.

We understand the difficulties caused by the short comment period for the draft, however, we believe the public outreach during the summer of 2000 along with the 30-day comment period for review of the draft Strategy provided ample opportunity for public comment. We strongly believe the needs that generated the effort to undertake this project were better served by completing the process as quickly as possible to allow the Strategy implementation to begin immediately. We also understand that the issues that surround off-highway vehicle use on public lands are controversial, and we have done the best possible job of reviewing your comments and in developing a document that we believe outlines the necessary steps toward significant improvements in the activity.

Rather than a static document that will "sit on the shelf," this Strategy is a starting point in a dynamic process. It's development involved the general public, BLM's Resource Advisory Councils, state and federal agencies, Tribal governments and BLM personnel. We will continue to keep the pubic informed and involved during the implementation progress.

Sincerely,

Sylvia V. Baca

Sylvia Baca
Acting Director

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