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Travel Management Plan Notes

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- 1) Looking over the TMP I would like to know what concessions would be made for long trip types of off road, or on road, use.
 - A) For instance, we are now able to use OHV'S on logging roads and other dirt forestland roads. Will this continue to be the case?

- 2) What exactly is an OHV?
 - A) In the language used, I believe it could be any vehicle that is no longer driving on a paved surface.

My thoughts,

I can understand the need for allowing some areas that are designated for certain types of use; however, when you disallow use by one of the largest shareholders you will not only create friction, but also invite non-compliance.

In the State of Oregon there are about 700,000 off highway vehicle users, not including 4 wheel drive vehicles. That is about 1/3 the total population of this State. These users make use of these vehicles in different ways from simple enjoyment to hunting, site seeing and family recreations.

This recreation is not limited to individuals that ride (trails), but also encompass users that enjoy riding the firebreaks and logging roads. Isolating individuals to a single riding area will cause over crowding which would lead to unsafe riding conditions, as well as causing rider-ship to decrease (as this isn't the type of riding enjoyed by all groups). In other words, this is not a one size fits all activity.

Further, closing off areas of the National Forest will only increase the use by the criminal element. Meaning that marijuana growers and the like will find safe haven in areas less traveled by other users. In the future this would lead to unsafe conditions for hikers and others that did venture into these by limited use areas.

The question before us is, then, how to make the best use of NFL to all types of users. Is it to only allow hikers to use the majority of the land? I don't think so. Here in Oregon there has not been a big problem with OHV's taking over. This is not to say some types of use shouldn't be asked to stay in certain areas. But, rather, to say you can't lump all users of OHV's into one group.

By detailing what you expect OHV users to do and how to act appropriately in our National Forest Lands, I think you will find a much better response to restrictions than not allowing the whole public to use public lands.

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