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**From:** Lower Sonoran RMP  
**Subject:** Draft RMP Comments

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 25, 2011 11:04:00 AM  
**To:** BLM\_AZ\_LSFO\_SDNM\_RMP  
**Subject:** Draft RMP Comments

Auto forwarded by a Rule First, congratulations on the draft plan. You've undertaken a huge - and much needed - task. Thank you also for the presentation you made in Ajo recently.

My comments relate directly to the the proposed **ATV/OHV area for the Ajo Block**.

### **A. Travel Management Plan**

If I understood the presenters correctly the TMP for the Ajo Block is about 6 years away. (I believe one of the presenters said that it would another 5 years *after* this RMP plan is finalized next year.)

We have been coming to the Ajo area for about a dozen years. We've spent most of our time west of Ajo, camping out along the Scenic Loop area.

The steady impact of OHVs/ATVs is most discouraging.

When the route signs went up a few years ago we hoped this meant that BLM was going to implement some control over where ATVs could go. Sadly that doesn't seem to be the case. They continue to use the area as a wide-open playground often with little thought or consideration for the natural environment.

### **B. 50-Acre OHV/ATV Block at Ajo**

This is the second year I've been hiking in the vicinity of this existing ATV "track". The first time I stumbled upon it I was aghast. Hundreds of old tires, trash everywhere, plants run over. Heart-breaking to see the desert treated this way.

Fortunately it seems the area is not well known to most ATVers. *Yet*. To see this area published in the RMP is a grave concern. To read that you are actually planning not only to develop the area — but to expand it — into a full-blown ATV "destination" is, frankly, appalling.

Since there is no TMP for the Ajo Block, to designate 50 acres for *unrestricted* ATV use is putting the cart well before the horse.

### **C. My Specific Comments**

**1. Nothing of this size or nature should be considered until a Travel Management Plan has been developed, with full public input.**

**2. Should you decide to proceed with this area, with or without a TMP, detailed plans for monitoring and enforcement should be in place before any development occurs.**

The area you are planning to develop has no natural boundaries to confine activities — the surrounding desert is already a maze of two-tracks and junk that has been dumped over the decades. Encouraging "unrestricted" activities simply invites more of the same. Replying on peer pressure does not work.

**3. If you feel it necessary to develop an OHV/ATV area in the Ajo Block then consider land with easy access off a major highway, rather than routing traffic past and through residential areas. Again, as part of a TMP, such areas might be better identified by the people who actually live here.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

  
Ajo, AZ