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Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

NOV 23 2007

I'm writing to express my concerns of the DEIS of the WOPR recently published. The area of concern is the increase of OHV use in *our* forests. I believe there's a real problem with your idea of "recreation at the highest level" and "conserving habitat" relating to OHVs. I'd suggest that OHV be extremely limited *not* expanded or encouraged on public lands.

Public lands need to be reflective of the public interest *not* private interest groups. We, as taxpayers and registered voters, need *not* to incur more liability and expense due to OHV use in our forests.

1. OHV users historically do NOT stay on provided trails and cause irreparable damage to all areas: i.e. meadows, wooded areas, riparian areas, and streams.
2. Policing these areas will require tax dollars. There will be toilets needed, litter to remove, fuel spills to contain, and fires from smokers in remote areas.
3. There will be tourist revenues *lost* as our state becomes less attractive for tourists. People come to Oregon for it's culture, natural beauty, clean water, clean air, and to renew their connection to a more peaceful world, not to be mired in a motorized mess!
4. Wildlife will be affected by noise and habitat destruction.
5. Our forests will suffer from surface erosion and an invasion of noxious weeds brought on by OHVs.
6. Our quality of water will affected by erosion of watershed areas, chemical spills (gas and oil), and human waste.
7. Neighboring private lands will be devalued due to OHVs in their area. Think of having OHVs next door to your home!
8. Established recreational areas, such as Lily Glen, will have the safety of horse riders endangered by introducing OHVs in their area, as well as hikers, mountain bikers, etc. in many other areas.

In closing, establishing 13 areas for OHVs in Jackson county alone, will be a huge environmental mistake and not consistent with your plan of "conserving habitat". As a taxpayer, I resent having to pay more of our precious few dollars for the enjoyment of a special interest group, such as OHV'ers whose recreation makes waste of our natural resources, including fuels needed for local commerce.

I'd like to be involved in helping with your plan and attend meetings whenever I can.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Rishel,
Registered Voter and Taxpayer

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Cc: Kulongoski, Gov., Bates, Sen., Walden, Rep., Buckley, Rep., Wyden, Sen., Smith, Sen., Reuwsaat, Local BLM