

Att. Alan Hoffmeister

1484
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I live on Indian Creek Road at the 1 mile mark. There is a BLM yellow gate boundary at the 1-1/8 mile mark. I am the last driveway on Indian Creek Road, and my property has BLM on two sides. My property is on the S.W. boundary line of Section 31. Indian Creek Road is off Draper Valley Road, in Selma.

My first concern is off road use during the summer/fire season. The nature of "off road use" is exactly that: off road. However, they make their own trails, jumps, hills, and climbs, etc. These are combustible vehicles. If they crash or spill and go down as a result, a fire can easily start, and that fire will go west. The Biscuit fire traveled northwest, southwest and due west. The Crooks Creek fire went slightly northwest towards me, but mostly due west. So if a fire started in the Off Highway Vehicle Emphasis area, the residents of Indian Creek Road, Draper Valley Road, and Deer Creek Road in Selma could be in grave danger.

My second concern is Indian Creek Road is not a paved, county maintained road, but a gravel and dirt road. The last 1/3 mile is a single lane with two blind curves. There have been four vehicle accidents there already, two of which involved off road, joyriding young adults. More traffic on this road would be unsafe.

My third concern is that in various areas of Section 31, quality Matsutake and other mushroom habitats exist. If you go to the BLM yellow gate at the end of Indian Creek Road, walk up the hill north to northeast, you will be in excellent Matsutake mushroom territory. Please note the deep scars left by off road users in the mushroom beds, rendering them unable to produce for a number of years. This valuable resource is being destroyed by off roaders.

Most off road vehicle folks are law abiding people; however, we all know some that are not. Most will obey signs, laws, gates, berms, etc., yet some do not obey the law and will go so far as to remove signs. For example, when the BLM gate is locked, they go around it and you can see this by the tracks at the end of Indian Creek Road. The dirt road that parallels BLM Road was bermed up so vehicles could not go back on BLM property. At first, the motorcycles went around the berm so often they rutted in a crude road. Now, that crude road has been widened and more defined by continued unlawful use that even 4x4s and cars can easily travel it. Roads are being created that were never planned or desired.

Lastly, the Northern Spotted Owl is a protected species. There currently exists a nest of Banded Northern Spotted Owl in Section 31 which is protected by law. Will we let this irreplaceable, precious animal be destroyed for the sake of "entertainment?"

In short, I am against off road usage in this area due to fire danger, overuse of the road, natural habitats being disturbed and quiet neighborhoods turn into noisy roadways.

*The police are under staffed in Josephine Co.
if a situation should occur in this area
those of us living close are concerned*

*Steve Menegozzi
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