

1705

January 3, 2008

Bureau of Land Management  
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office  
333 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97208

Dear BLM:

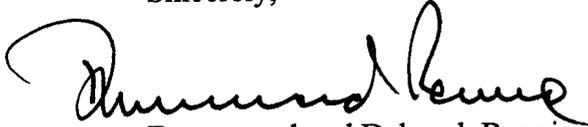
As residents of the Little Applegate Valley, we wish to express, in the strongest possible terms, our opposition to the planned dramatic increase in Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) activity in the Applegate watershed. We are most concerned about the proposed 11,742 acre Anderson Butte OHV emphasis area, which is bounded by the Little Applegate River and Sterling Creek Road, where we live. The noise, degradation of wildlife habitat, and erosion caused by OHV activity would diminish the quality of our lives, the lives of our neighbors, and that of all people who enjoy non-motorized recreation in the area. It would threaten the serenity of the area for residents, wildlife, and tourists. Tourism is a very large part of the local economy, and WOPR would definitely diminish the attractiveness of this area as a tourist destination. Furthermore, it would negatively impact our property value. We moved to Southern Oregon seven years ago because we love the natural beauty and the peace and quiet of the Siskiyou Mountains. Our dream is now being threatened by this invasive activity that benefits few and harms many.

We would like to call to your attention an article in the January-February issue of the Applegator, an excellent publication published by the Applegate Partnership. In the article by Chris Bratt, titled 'Invasion of the Off-Roaders', he outlines a proposal, which we whole-heartedly endorse. It says:

BLM should begin their motorized recreational program by declaring all lands in the Medford District temporarily "closed" to OHV use. Then they could sort out which of their lands, in conjunction with U.S. Forest Service lands throughout southern Oregon, are appropriate and available for OHV use. Both agencies could then begin a united systematic effort, based on an environmental analysis, to open small scattered areas to "limited" OHV use. These small OHV areas could be expanded or closed depending on the impacts they receive and how strict guidelines are followed. A guiding OHV management plan would be written by both agencies to insure consistent, positive and environmentally responsible OHV management of our public lands.

We realize that OHV activity is here to stay, but this proposal seems like a realistic, measured, and intelligent way forward.

Sincerely,



Drummond and Deborah Rennie  
9627 Sterling Creek Rd.  
Jacksonville, OR 97530



Cc: Oregon Congressional delegation

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Senator Gordon Smith  
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Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-4<sup>th</sup>)  
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