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Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office:

I would like to add my concerns on the proposal to add OHV Emphasis Areas in Southern Oregon.

I believe the questions and concerns raised by the Medford Mail Tribune's December 14th article by Jackson County commissioner Dave Gilmour recommendations to the BLM and commissioner CW Smith's questions about the BLM's ability to properly manage these areas reflect my concerns.

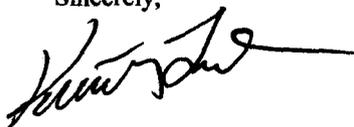
Finding suitable areas on public lands to sanction an activity that adversely impacts the land, the streams, the wildlife as well as private property owners and other recreational interests is a formidable challenge. I think that those areas that are ultimately chosen must be considered as OHV exclusive zones as the lack of compatibility with other forms of recreational interests goes without saying.

The 1600 Johns Peak/Timber Mountain residents that have formally objected to the property damage, noise and trespass concerns reflect real concerns residents have who are impacted by this recreational pursuit in their neighborhoods. In choosing these 13 OHV Emphasis areas it would seem that this incompatibility has been ignored.

It would appear that concerns for extreme fire danger, areas of critical environmental concern, sensitive wildlife habitat, fish bearing streams, nearby private property issues, landslide prone areas would eliminate the John's Peak, Lake Creek, Worthington Obenchain, East Howard, and Anderson Butte areas. Perhaps the areas recommended by Commissioner Gilmore that being the Elderberry Flat, Ferris Gulch and Salt Creek area might be areas of interest but any decision must reflect the concerns listed above. If the BLM ultimately recognizes any area for this inherently problematic recreational activity it should be provisional with regular review of what effect the activity is having. Also CW Smiths reservations about the BLM's ability to manage these areas must be addressed.

I am also concerned about changes under the Western Oregon Plan Revisions that would thwart the protections of the Northwest Forest Plan and negatively affect habitat and increase water pollution. The WOPR also abandons protections in the O&C Act, Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Lund