

2036

RECEIVED

JAN 11 2008

Dear BLM,

1-9-08

We Jason and Janice Cowan are wishing to share some information and comment on the WOPR. We have lived in Josephine County for nearly 30 years. Our family enjoys OHV recreation on public land. We feel that BLM has up to this point, failed to meet the public need as stated in the 1994 RMP for OHV recreation objective (p2-37). By now identifying the conflicts that OHVs create and providing alternatives, BLM could help institute a viable solution.

There are literally millions of dollars available from the off road fuel tax and off road registration stickers. This money is only available for OHV recreation. This money could be used for law enforcement, trail maintenance, sound management etc... This would greatly reduce the conflict that is now at a head. Also, organizations and individuals need the right to mitigate before any trail closures. The trails to be included need to be as extensive as possible to reduce conflict among the various users. OHV areas should be, by fairness, rated by miles of trail, not by acres.

The main points that we wish to address are:

- A. BLM managed OHV areas with sufficient funds for law enforcement benefits
 - 1. Sound management recommended level (96db SAE J1287 20 inch stationary test)
 - 2. Limit trespassing
 - 3. Off road registration stickers enforcement
 - 4. Would benefit communities by limiting visitor conflict and reducing rural OHV use
- B. Extensive trail systems including looping, single track trails
 - 1. Limits user conflicts
 - 2. Minimizes environmental impacts
 - 3. Provides maximum user experience
 - 4. Would allow BLM to reach their socioeconomic objectives benefiting communities
 - 5. All emphasis areas need to be implemented for BLM to meet their recreational objective
- C. Other benefits
 - 1. Provides safer recreation for families, including elderly and handicapped riders
 - 2. Trail maintenance/erosion control
 - 3. Foster self enforcement (users would help monitor violators for their own benefit)
 - 4. Would give visitors a list of rules to obey

Furthermore, we have a more specific need for Illinois Valley OHV emphasis areas. Section 33 which is being considered, is adjacent to our 165 acre campground, Sasquatch acres 38-07-28 TL 800&801. One reason our campground status was granted is the contiguous access to the recreational amenities provided by the adjacent BLM land. This land is already being ridden on and the riding is not going to be monitored or enforced without being emphasized areas. This land has been used by OHVs for decades.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments. The success of our campground is dependent on access to OHV recreation on adjacent BLM land. We have many letters from successful communities that have implemented OHV recreation emphasis. We have tried to be short and precise, but we do have many months of research that we have accumulated in preparation for our campground approval. Please notify us if we can provide any documentation or further information. We have enjoyed OHV recreation on public land with our families for generations. It truly saddens us to think we may not be able to enjoy it with our grandchildren.

Please send written response to our letter. Also, send future findings or information on the proposed RMP/Final EIS to:

Sasquatch Acres
Jason and Janice Cowan Phone# 541-597-2975
2975 Thompson Creek Rd
Selma OR 97538

