

2526



January 5, 2008

Tim Reuwsaat
Medford BLM Chief,
Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Rd.
Medford, OR 97504

Dear Mr. Reuwsaat,

We have recently been advised, not through any public agency, but through local citizens regarding the BLM consideration to determine the use of land in section 25, Josephine County. As there are many private residences along Reeves Creek Road and adjacent off roads, the residents would be adversely affected because of resulting noise pollution, erosion of soil, spreading of noxious weed by tires and air pollution from these off road vehicles. The ORV that would be legally permitted to use Section 25 on a regular basis presents a great intrusion into the quality life for residences in the outlying areas. These people almost all have chosen to live in this area to avoid the hustle, bustle, air pollution, and noise that city life brings. Anyone fortunate enough to live in this pristine area wants to keep the surroundings conducive to quiet, mountain living. We all know how sound travels in the mountains so, truly, an ORV designated area, unless it was surrounded by a wall, would affect areas up to 3-4 miles away as far as noise pollution.

If I'm not mistaken, all BLM and Forest Service properties are open to off road vehicles unless otherwise posted. Why not post all areas as (NO OFF ROAD VEHICLES). Until the BLM or Forest Service can afford to patrol an ORV designated area and until all studies would assure property owners that their quality of life would not be affected in any way, we would be against any designated area put aside for this type of recreation. Fishing and camping and hunting require permits on public lands. Why should something that causes destruction to the land be exempt from any user fees at all? There is always an option for people to use private property for ORV as long as it is allowable through planning and zoning. At least Planning and Zoning have notification and follow up procedures. As residents within 3 miles from Section 25, we were miffed not to hear anything from BLM. Residents along Reeves Creek Road have not been notified of the possibility of this ORV designated area.

Sincerely,
Frank Wallace, Sara Wallace
Frank and Sara Wallace
21734 Redwood Hwy.
Selma, OR 97538