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Category: Recreation

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Chapter 3; Sec 3.6.7 Recreation. While OHV use is primarily discussed in Chapter 4 under Environmental Consequences we think it deserves prominent consideration under recreation. On page 3-108 you note that OHV use is an important and growing recreational use of public lands. While that statement is true it would be more accurate to proclaim that OHV recreation is the fastest growing activity on public lands today. Outside of the reference to Poison Spider ORV Park, OHV recreation is only mentioned in one sentence in chapter 3. Why is it important that OHV recreation has greater emphasis in Chapter 3? It clarifies it as a legitimate recreational activity within the plan area. It would accurately highlight it as a stand-alone recreation activity, such as fishing or hunting. It would separate recreation OHV use from the use of OHVs while engaged in other activities.

It would provide balance in the discussion of OHV use between recreation and the additional analysis it receives under Chapter 4; Environmental Consequences. Chapter 4; Sec 4.6.5 - Throughout this chapter the focus is on the impacts to the environment under each alternative from OHV use. The first thing you notice is that the EIS suggests that none of the alternatives would significantly change the overall pattern of OHV use. Closer examination highlights the differences and is one of the major factors in our endorsing Alternative D. Poison Spider ORV Park Alternative A doesn't expand Poison Spider nor address additional open riding areas. Alternatives B and C expand Poison Spider Park, but don't endorse additional open riding areas.

Alternative D expands Poison Spider Park and urges the inclusion of additional open riding areas.

Alternative E expands Poison Spider Park and considers additional open riding areas. Our organization endorses responsible recreation OHV use and is in favor of designated routes and areas. We know that other alternatives include large areas with the limited to designated routes travel plan. We think that OHV use while engaged in other activities will dominate the designation process. Agriculture and industry will not be bound to these designations. Combine that with the utility use of OHVs while engaged in other recreation activities and we think recreational OHV users will be inadequately considered.

We think that the preferred alternative should have addressed this recreational use and included analysis that would describe impacts from new OHV trail construction, conversion of roads to trails and trail diversity for specific motorized use.

Thank you.