NATIONAL FORESTS
Our Trails Are In Trouble
Educate your legislator program

Welcome All Trail Advocates,

Are you tired of seeing more & more trails closed to you & your children?
You can do something about it before it is too late.

What if you could make a real difference to help keep your trails open?
What if it would only take an hour of your time?

Congratulations you are about to do something very important to help keep your trails open.
As you know many National Forests are proposing to close up to 60% of the existing trails to motorized use & the majority of the public.

Literally thousands of miles of trails are on the chopping block.

We all care deeply about our Forests & oppose trail closures since they will INCREASE impacts on remaining trails by CONCENTRATING use. We want to ensure that our children will be able to access & enjoy the same great places that we have been able to via responsible OHV recreation.

Enclosed you will find the DVD "*National Forests-Our Trails Are In Trouble*" which was created to make it easy for you to educate your federal, state, local legislators & others.

There is a vocal minority of people meeting with legislators to urge them to reduce or eliminate access to our public lands. By meeting with your legislator you can help balance the issue & present facts regarding responsible OHV use & the need to keep existing motorized roads & trails open to motorized use. Every legislator has local offices probably in your town or a nearby town. Your meeting will probably last about 15-20 minutes, so it will only take about 1 hour total of your time, but will pay huge dividends. As a constituent your legislator will consider your meeting with them to echo the view of thousands of other voters. Unless you meet with them they may only hear from the closure activists. Use your power & let them know the recreating public wants motorized trails to remain open for future generations. Take a friend along!

We encourage you to meet with your legislators or their staff & personally watch the video with them to show why we need their help to stop proposed trail closures.

STEP ONE: Watch the DVD to familiarize yourself with the information.
The main thing is to meet with legislators & watch the video with them & speak to them.
However if you can gather the following facts prior to meeting that would be even better:

1. Total mileage of existing motorized trails including designated trails & non-system trails & trails that have been overlooked
2. Total mileage of trails the forest proposes to keep open to motorized use
3. Total mileage of trails the forest proposes to close to motorized use
4. Total mileage of existing non-motorized trails
5. Total number of motorized users & their economic value to the community
6. Percentage of Forest that is already designated as Wilderness (if applicable)

These facts can be found by reviewing Forest documents such as inventory maps, proposed actions, INFRA database & National Visitor Use Monitoring Data.
However please meet with your legislator & show them the video whether you have these facts or not.

STEP TWO: Contact your legislator's local office & ask them when you can meet with the legislator or their staff to discuss public lands.

Legislators are Congressman, Senators & Assemblymen. You may want to meet with your federal Congressman first, since they oversee the Forest Service.
We have set up a website where you can find out your legislators local phone numbers & more, just by entering your zip code at www.trailsintrouble.org

Access Tip: You may also want to show the video to your chamber of commerce, community groups, local TV stations, other community organizations, Mayor & Forest Service Planning Staff.
Please leave them a copy of the original DVD in the cover with each group, so that they can pass it on to others.

STEP THREE: Meet with your legislator. We feel it is best to start with the DVD.

Please be sure to watch the DVD with whomever you are meeting with. Try not to just hand the DVD out, as they may not watch it. The DVD outlines the scenario happening everywhere & is a great icebreaker.
We recommend that you take a laptop to your meeting in case the legislator does not have a DVD player.
Please be sure to test play the DVD in the laptop you plan on using to ensure it plays properly.
Please consider this program is your opportunity to create support for recreation on all public lands. This program is educational in nature. So be polite, yet personal and passionate.

Leave the official DVD with each legislator that you meet so they can show it to others.
Access Tip: **The official DVD in the case with cover art makes a much stronger impression than handing them a copy you made on your computer. Please only use the official DVD to make the most of your time & your meetings.**

Now is the time to voice your concerns. We feel that your concern over past or proposed trail closures. Please add other issues that are important to you. Here are some examples:

Quality of Life:

- Motorized Recreation is good for my family.
- Quality time spent, especially with family and friends.
- Creates time to teach young ones valuable lessons (tread lightly etc).
- The joy of being out doors with nature.
- Stress relief.
- Motorized Trail systems allow you and yours access to fishing, hunting, photography, and other activities you enjoy.
- Trail systems are what allow recreation.

Economic Impacts:

- Your personal investment
- Motorized Tourist dollars spent. Economic impact in the home district, Percentage of households that have OHV's.
- OHV sticker programs generate money to maintain trails.
- The current cost to replace closed route is approximately $34,000 per mile – a huge resource loss for the community.
- OHV is self funded and contributes the majority of volunteer hours to maintain trails for all recreational users.

Other Important Issues:

- Motorized Trail systems in most areas use less than 0.1% of the available area.

- Motorized Trails have been traditionally used for many years by game, natives, miners, hunters, ranchers, and explorers.
- A favorable high mile to low user ratio is a key element to creating a sustainable and high quality user experience.

Our Closing:

- You need to ask "can you help me?" Hopefully the response will be "what do you need?" This is when you ask them to sign a letter to keep all existing motorized trails open to motorized use in your Forest.
- Next ask how you can help them.
- And last, when can you contact them in regards to your support letter.
- It is very important to remember to leave the DVD and educational materials with the person you are speaking to. If your club has a brochure leave it or leave the brochure for your State Organization.
- After you get home, it is appropriate to send a **hand written letter** of thanks (see below).

WELL DONE

You have invested about one hour of your time & made a positive impression helping trails to remain open to motorized use & the majority of the public.

Please let us know what legislators you have met with & the results by emailing us at results@trailsintrouble.org

If you have any questions, please drop us an email at:
support@trailsintrouble.org

To order more DVD's to leave with each legislator or organization you meet please visit
www.TrailsInTrouble.org
This professional quality DVD with cover art & DVD case will leave the best impression on legislators & others. Please do not make copies on your computer.

Together we can keep our trails open

Possible Hand Written Thank You Note

<Date>

Dear _____,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on <DATE> concerning recreational trails on public land. I hope we can work together on this important issue.

If you have any questions or comments about our conversation, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,

Your Name
Your Address

Your Phone Number