



Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, Inc.
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Testimony to the Nevada Legislative Committee on Public Lands June 6, 2008 – Elko, Nevada

For the Record, my name is Larry Johnson, President of the Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife. The Coalition is composed of a group of Nevadan sportsmen and conservationists who come from a multitude of backgrounds. Most are also involved in other hunting, fishing and conservation organizations. Most of our members' "parent" organizations are classified as 501.c.3's per IRS code and have limitations on their political involvement. The Coalition is a 501.c.4 that allows for unlimited political action, making us the political voice for many of Nevada's sportsmen and conservationists.

In 2007, approximately 167,000 hunting, fishing and trapping licenses were sold in the State of Nevada. Many of these sportsmen own and operate OHV's for the purpose of carrying out these activities. A report published by the U.S. Forest Service in 2005 (excerpts attached) showed that nationwide, 25% of all OHV users hunt big game, 21% hunt for small game, and 7% hunt for waterfowl and up to 43% fish. In addition, the study showed that 62% view or photograph wildlife. OHV users partake in hunting, fishing and other wildlife recreation activities at a much higher rate than does the general population.

Due to the integration of sportsmen and OHV users, the management component of this issue has become important to many of our members. The increasing popularity of OHV use combined with Nevada's rapid population growth has resulted in more OHV's on public lands. The lack of sufficient regulations and travel planning by public land management agencies in Nevada has resulted in problems. A small percentage of irresponsible OHV users and a rapid expansion of new trails have contributed to the following conflicts with wildlife and sportsmen:

1. Negative impacts on watersheds and wildlife habitat due to the pioneering of new trails.
2. Increased disturbance of wildlife due to increased human presence and fragmentation of habitat.
3. Direct harassment of wildlife.
4. Direct conflicts with sportsmen on foot in remote areas.

EXHIBIT O - LANDS Document consists of 6 pages. Entire Exhibit Provided Meeting Date: 06-06-08
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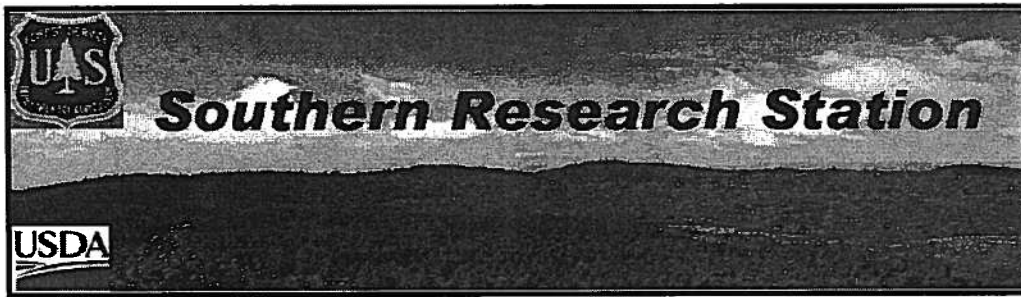
Responsible OHV recreation is a valid multiple use on public lands, and should be maintained as such in concert with the other uses. However, to do so in a responsible manner requires some level of regulation and enforcement. At this time, the Coalition supports the enactment of legislation that:

1. Provides a visible identification tag or plate on recreational OHV's for the purpose of enforcing OHV rules and regulations.
2. Provides funding for the enforcement of the visible tag program, including funding for local enforcement agencies and the Nevada Department of Wildlife as they will become the primary enforcement agency in Nevada's back country.
3. Provides sufficient funds to cover the start up and administration costs of such a program.
4. Provides a means to voluntarily donate money to a State OHV Fund for the purpose of assisting with local OHV planning efforts, and reclamation of damaged environments.

This is the logical first step for the State to take in this process.

Without a change in current policy, Nevada's public lands and resources will pay the price. More proposals for "hands off" or wilderness-type management will be presented as the alternative solution. The Coalition supports legislation that promotes the interaction and input of various public land uses in developing comprehensive and balanced OHV rules and regulations. We are pleased to join together with the other organizations as part of the Nevada Responsible Trails Alliance.

Thank you for your time today.



**Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation in the
United States, Regions and States:
A National Report from the National Survey on
Recreation and the Environment (NSRE)**

June, 2005

By:

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Introduction

This Report

This report was prepared for the Forest Service's National OHV Policy & Implementation Teams. The source of data is the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE). The data used in this report from the NSRE were collected between the fall of 1999 through late 2004. More about the NSRE can be found at this web site, www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends. As the reader will note, detailed results from the NSRE describing off-highway vehicle users can be found in the Appendices to this report (reader, please note that wording). We chose to put the more detailed results in appendices to reduce the number and length of data tables in the main body of this report. The focus of this report is on off-highway driving of motor vehicles. Wording of the question in the NSRE referred to "off-road" driving because this is how the activity was phrased in previous NSRE surveys. For this report we will consider off-highway and off-road to be the same.

The NSRE is a collaborative project between the Forest Service (Research and Development and Strategic Planning and Resource Assessment Offices), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the University of Georgia and the University of Tennessee. Other agencies also are partners in sponsoring the NSRE.

Off-Highway Vehicle Issues

The July 15, 2004, Forest Service draft rule regarding management of motorized vehicle use has increased attention on where and how off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation occurs and is offered. As public land managers are tasked with the responsibility of examining and implementing clear and consistent agency policy, understanding who the OHV recreationists are has become ever more important.

Currently there is considerable concern about cross-country travel by motorized vehicles on the National Forests and on other public lands of this country. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth has noted that unmanaged recreation, including OHV use, is one of the top four threats to the health of national forests. The growing use of motor vehicles is prompting the Forest Service to revise its management of this use so that the agency can continue to provide opportunities desired by the public, while sustaining National Forest System lands.

Off-highway vehicles are popularly defined as 1) 4-wheel drive jeeps, automobiles, or sport utility vehicles; 2) motorcycles designed for off-highway use; 3) all-terrain vehicles, better known as ATVs and other specially designed off road motor vehicles used in a wide variety of ways. Although some observers and organizations include snowmobiles in their broad definition of OHVs, they are not included as OHVs for the purposes of this report, even though the NSRE has collected data specifically addressing this widely population motorized activity. Further, it is recognized that OHVs are used frequently for business, commuting, and other work-related

Table 22 shows participation rates for each of the 47 outdoor recreation activities across the five OHV user segments. OHV users as a whole are more active in almost every recreation activity relative to the general U.S. population age 16 and older (Table 22). The exception is backpacking. For some activities, OHV users participate at more than twice the national rate. In particular, OHV users were about three times more likely to participate in the three types of hunting—big game, small game, and migratory bird—than was the general public. Following Table 22 is a brief synopsis describing each OHV user group or segment.

Table 22—Outdoor recreation participation percentages for the full NSRE sample, all OHV users, and the 5 OHV user segments, by activity type.

Activity	Full NSRE Sample	All OHV Users	Middle of the Roaders	Upper Middle Class Nature Lovers	Seniors	Middle Age Actives	Young Adventure Seekers
Land-based Activities							
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	32.7	56.2	57.9	54.1	43.3	58.6	56.6
Day hiking	33.3	45.4	47.8	47.2	30.8	51.4	42.1
Primitive camping	16.0	37.0	36.8	33.2	19.3	35.5	42.3
Mountain biking	21.4	35.7	38.2	25.2	14.4	34.4	42.3
Big game hunting	8.4	25.3	27.5	28.5	20.0	25.9	23.3
Small game hunting	7.2	21.2	21.5	21.1	16.0	20.6	22.2
Backpacking	22.8	20.3	21.9	15.7	7.4	20.5	23.1
Horseback riding on trails	7.8	16.1	14.5	11.6	7.5	15.9	20.5
Migratory bird hunting	2.4	7.3	7.1	7.9	3.9	6.4	8.5
Viewing/learning Activities							
Sightseeing	51.8	74.9	77.5	86.4	84.0	82.6	62.9
View/photograph natural scenery	60.4	71.7	73.4	79.3	70.4	79.8	63.4
View/photograph other wildlife (besides birds)	44.7	62.3	62.4	69.5	63.6	69.8	55.1
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc	44.9	52.5	52.6	62.8	56.9	62.9	41.8
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	28.5	48.8	48.3	50.5	46.5	52.5	46.7
View/photograph fish	24.8	38.4	40.0	42.0	36.8	45.8	32.0
View/photograph birds	32.4	36.5	35.2	52.5	48.9	44.3	24.7
Developed-setting Activities							
Walk for pleasure	83.0	87.4	87.5	90.5	89.7	89.4	84.8
Family gatherings outdoors	73.5	84.4	85.8	82.8	79.8	86.0	83.9
Driving for pleasure	51.2	83.9	86.2	91.6	89.9	88.9	75.6
Visit nature centers, etc.	57.1	67.3	74.5	67.4	57.6	71.1	62.1

Activity	Full NSRE Sample	All OHV Users	Middle of the Roaders	Upper Middle Class Nature Lovers	Seniors	Middle Age Actives	Young Adventure Seekers
Picnicking	54.5	61.6	66.6	68.0	66.6	71.5	49.3
Visit historic sites	46.2	57.2	57.4	63.2	54.1	60.6	53.5
Developed camping	26.4	45.4	46.6	39.6	30.8	46.9	44.0
Visit prehistoric/archeological sites	20.9	29.3	28.4	33.6	24.9	31.8	27.6
Fishing Activities							
Warmwater fishing	22.6	43.0	45.1	38.9	32.4	43.2	44.6
Coldwater fishing	13.6	28.4	27.2	27.2	23.8	30.0	29.7
Saltwater fishing	10.4	17.0	17.2	17.6	12.6	18.3	16.7
Anadromous fishing	4.4	9.5	8.2	10.8	4.5	10.0	10.4
Non-motorized Boating Activities							
Rafting	9.5	22.7	21.5	12.0	4.9	19.6	32.2
Canoeing	9.7	18.3	17.8	11.6	9.5	18.8	22.2
Rowing	4.4	8.1	6.6	7.8	4.9	8.8	9.3
Sailing	5.1	7.6	6.1	6.4	4.8	7.6	9.7
Kayaking	3.5	6.8	5.7	4.5	2.8	6.0	9.6
Windsurfing	0.8	1.6	1.5	1.0	0.1	1.6	2.2
Motorized Boating Activities							
Motorboating	24.4	45.6	48.2	40.2	33.5	47.4	46.9
Waterskiing	8.1	20.4	19.9	7.8	4.3	16.1	30.4
Using personal watercraft	9.5	23.8	21.6	8.1	6.2	17.8	37.5
Swimming/diving Activities							
Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	41.7	62.6	65.8	49.0	31.2	63.9	70.3
Visit beach	40.6	56.0	59.4	49.3	36.5	57.8	58.6
Visit other waterside (besides beach)	26.0	41.2	43.5	32.5	24.6	43.2	44.3
Snorkeling	6.7	12.1	12.0	8.8	6.0	13.5	13.6
Scuba diving	1.9	4.9	5.1	3.7	3.1	4.8	5.5
Surfing	1.7	3.9	2.9	1.4	0.4	2.7	6.7
Snow/ice Activities							
Snowmobiling	5.6	16.3	17.0	11.7	6.7	14.8	20.2
Downhill skiing	8.5	14.9	14.2	7.2	3.2	15.0	20.2
Snowboarding	4.9	12.3	8.8	2.7	0.9	6.8	23.5
Cross country skiing	3.8	5.9	5.0	6.3	2.9	7.2	6.2

Source: NSRE 1999-2004. Sample sizes: Full sample=73,675; All OHV users=14,261; Middle of the Roaders=3,816; Upper Middle Class Nature Lovers=2,592; Seniors=991; Middle Age Actives=3,301; Young Adventure Seekers=3,561.