

June 10, 2021

Siuslaw National Forest
3200 Jefferson Way
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

Attn: Katie Isacksen

Dear Ms. Isacksen,

Having lived on Cleawox Lake for more than 15 years, even though I no longer live there, I feel compelled to write on behalf of myself and my former neighbors who still must endure the obnoxious noise generated by ATV enthusiasts.

Most of the noise comes from the illegal ATV use of lands adjacent to and running down to the water's edge of Cleawox Lake, but "off limits" to them. I know this from personal experience, not only from my time of living on and kayaking in the pristine waters of the lake, but the many times my wife and I have kayaked on the lake since moving. It is the exception to the rule that we don't see ATV enthusiasts riding down to the water's edge, or loudly churning sand within yards of where we are picnicking just feet from our kayaks.

I am completely baffled by one sentence I read in the June 3, 2021 Register Guard article titled "Officials consider relaxing ATV noise restrictions" by Donald Orr of Oregon Public Broadcasting. The sentence reads, "Officials said the goal of the proposed changes would reduce noise impacts on neighboring communities, without creating impossible standards for riders to meet." To me this statement is the perfect definition of an oxymoron.

How does increasing the allowable decibel level reduce the noise impact? And speaking of decibels, an increase of from 2-4 decibels doesn't sound like much, unless you understand how decibel levels are rated. An increase of just 6 decibels doubles the noise level. So instead of a two to four percent perceived noise increase, it would actually be a 33-66 percent increase!

I am not down on all ATV enthusiasts. I know it is a very popular family activity that brings countless dollars into our local economy. But I do have a problem with those who choose not to play by the rules, such as complying with legal noise levels and not straying out of designated areas.

Knowing human nature the way I do, to give in to this proposed increase in noise pollution will only encourage many ATV riders to push harder for fewer and fewer restrictions.

If ATV riders were forced to adhere to the boundary limitations already in place, there would probably be much less push back from local residents.

How about stationing 10 or 20 camouflaged hunter's video cameras around the most commonly violated areas and signs posted stating that anyone caught on an ATV in an unauthorized area will be fined \$500.00 and banned from any ATV access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreational Area for 12 months. A second violation would be a \$1,000.00 fine and permanent expulsion. The program could easily become self-funding.

Please, on behalf of all kayakers, canoers, fishermen and women, bird watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the serenity of Cleawox Lake and other coastal recreation areas, don't compound the noise pollution issue with more noise. Find an equitable solution for everyone.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long horizontal stroke that ends in a small upward curve.

Jack Davis