



PACIFIC NORTHWEST 4-WHEEL-DRIVE ASSOCIATION OREGON—WASHINGTON—IDAHO

Subject: Request for Inclusion of Motorized Recreation Perspectives for the Carbon River Landscape Analysis

July 1st, 2024

To Whom it may concern:

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing on behalf of the motorized recreation community to express our sincere interest in participating in and contributing to the upcoming meetings regarding the Carbon River Landscape Analysis updates. We understand the critical importance of these discussions in shaping the future of forest management and are eager to ensure that the unique perspectives of our community are considered in the decision-making process.

As enthusiasts and stakeholders in motorized recreation, we believe it is crucial to have a seat at the table during the review of subcommittee considerations and the refinement of recommendations. Our community plays a significant role in the responsible and sustainable use of forest resources, and we are committed to collaborating with other stakeholders to find balanced solutions that address environmental concerns while also recognizing the value of motorized recreation.

Motorized recreation plays a significant role in multiple ways, and we hope this will be acknowledged when considering closing or amending trails in the Evans Creek OHV area.

Motorized recreation brings tourism dollars to smaller towns that might otherwise miss out on this revenue without access to motorized recreation in the Evans Creek area. We support local gas stations, restaurants, and other facilities as we travel to our recreation spots. In 2023, tourism in Washington state was a \$23 billion industry.

Other benefits include:

Health and Well-being: Motorized off-highway motor vehicle recreation can have therapeutic benefits for individuals with mobility issues, both physically and mentally. The adrenaline rush and sense of accomplishment that come from navigating challenging terrain can boost confidence and self-esteem. Additionally, spending time in nature and engaging in outdoor activities has been shown to reduce stress, alleviate symptoms of depression and anxiety, and improve overall mental health. For individuals with mobility issues, off-highway motor vehicle recreation offers an opportunity to escape the confines of daily life, reconnect with nature, and experience a sense of freedom and empowerment.

Physical Benefits: Motorized off-highway motor vehicle recreation offers numerous physical benefits, providing enthusiasts with a dynamic and engaging form of exercise that promotes cardiovascular health, strength, and endurance. Navigating rugged terrain, maneuvering vehicles, and overcoming obstacles requires a combination of physical skills, including balance, coordination, and agility. Off-highway motor vehicle enthusiasts engage in a full-body workout as they navigate trails, using muscles in their arms, legs, and core to control their vehicles and maintain stability. Additionally, off-highway motor vehicle recreation often involves outdoor activities such as hiking, trail running, and exploring, further enhancing physical fitness levels and overall well-being. Through



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regular off-highway motor vehicle adventures, enthusiasts can improve their cardiovascular fitness, build muscular strength, and enjoy the many physical benefits of outdoor recreation.

Mental Health Benefits Including Those With Mobility Issues: Motorized off-highway motor vehicle recreation offers significant mental health benefits, providing a therapeutic escape from the stresses of daily life and promoting overall well-being. For individuals with mobility issues, off-highway motor vehicle recreation serves as a source of empowerment, allowing them to overcome physical limitations and experience a sense of freedom and independence in the great outdoors. Engaging in off-highway motor vehicle activities can boost mood, reduce stress, and alleviate symptoms of anxiety and depression, thanks to the combination of physical activity, exposure to nature, and adrenaline-inducing challenges. The immersive nature of off-highway motor vehicle adventures fosters mindfulness and presence, allowing participants to disconnect from technology and connect with the natural world. Moreover, the sense of accomplishment that comes from conquering challenging terrain builds confidence and self-esteem, empowering individuals to overcome obstacles both on and off the trail. Overall, motorized off-highway motor vehicle recreation offers a powerful remedy for mental health concerns, providing a therapeutic outlet for individuals of all abilities to rejuvenate their minds, body, and spirit.

Educational and Cultural Benefits: Off-highway motor vehicle recreation areas often encompass culturally significant sites and historical landmarks, providing opportunities for participants to learn about and appreciate diverse cultural heritage. Many off-highway motor vehicle trails traverse lands that hold deep cultural significance for indigenous communities, showcasing ancient rock art, archaeological sites, and traditional gathering places. By exploring these cultural landscapes and engaging with local communities, off-highway motor vehicle enthusiasts gain insights into indigenous cultures, histories, and traditions, fostering cross-cultural understanding and promoting cultural preservation efforts.

Our goal is to work collaboratively to develop recommendations that consider the diverse needs of all stakeholders involved. We believe that by actively involving the motorized recreation community, we can contribute valuable insights that will enhance the overall quality of the Carbon River Landscape Analysis.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the opportunity to participate constructively in the discussions and contribute to the development of a comprehensive and inclusive plan.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at waexec@pnw4wda.org

Sincerely,

Nichol Phillips

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