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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I would like to take this time to applaud the US Forest Service for the proactive measures it has taken to establish an area for off road recreation. Specifically, I appreciate the inclusion of off-road single track motorcycle trails. Southern Arizona is in need of this legitimate form of recreation as the vast majority of Forest Service land is off limits or severally restrictive to single track trails in Southern Arizona. Off road motorcycling has proven to help boost the local economy were off road recreation is welcomed. Hopefully there is an opportunity to camp in a staging area for family's who enjoy off road recreation and camping. Single track trails are not only less impactful to the environment they are safer to transvers due to less risk of head-on collision with bigger vehicles such as UTV's, ATV's and larger 4x4 vehicles. Lastly, the desert environment that is proposed for this activity is perfect for off road motorcycle recreation due to its remote location and limited impact to the environment.

Although Southern Arizona does have some opportunities for off road recreation, the vast majority of these trails are established dirt roads. The majority of these roads may be suitable for larger vehicles, but offer very little diversity and challenge for the off-road motorcycle community. Motorcyclist tend to be the most adventuresome of the off-road community and a good single track trail system would go a long way in quenching the spirt of the motorcyclist who seeks challenge and adventure. Moreover, as a motorcyclist, I applaud the inclusivity of the Forest Service regarding motorcyclist in their plan to increase the quality of life for tax payers who enjoy this form of recreation. Thank you Forest Service and other groups like the Trail Riders of Southern AZ who are making this possible.

Communities and small towns near to OHV recreation sites have benefited from the positive financial impact this group of people bring to these areas, especially if there is an opportunity for camping. From conveniences stores to restaurants and a number of other services, the off-road motorcycling community brings money and people into remote towns and areas that may offer very little in the way of tourism or outdoor activity. For example the town of California City, California generates positive revenue due to its friendly and welcoming relationship with the off road community. The Hatfield and McCoy trail system in West Virginia is a model of how several rural counties, who pushed for off road recreation, have benefited from the positive financial impact the off road public has brought to their communities. It would be nice to support our local Southern Arizona economy instead of traveling hundreds miles away to enjoy trails specific to smaller less environmentally impactful vehicles like motorcycles.

This is a positive direction the Forest Service is taking in establishing an area where it can service the needs of a recreational group of people (off-road motorcyclists / mountain bikers). Southern Arizona certainly could use an area with a legal off road network of trails especially given the fact that this is a large region of land that can easily support this type of recreation in certain designated areas. Thank you for your time in review of this letter.

Respectfully,
Elliott Lyle