

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/22/2018 2:46:18 PM

First name: Dan

Last name: Stackpoole

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ohio single track trail proposal

To whom it may concern,

As an off road motorcycle enthusiast I fully support the development of a single track motorcycle trail system in the Wayne national forest.

Unlike other ORVs, motorcycles have very little impact on the environment. As a former member of the Michigan Cycle Conservation Club I've performed plenty of trail maintenance over the years. The thing that never ceases to amaze me is how difficult it is to see the trail at certain times of the year such as late spring and late fall. Unlike ORV trucks, dunebuggies, sandrails, quads and now the oh so popular street legal side-by-sides that basically need a wide road blazed through the woods to safely operate, motorcycles only need a few inches and don't require removal of any trees! Bikes are able to weave in and out of tight wooded areas like a jack rabbit without disturbing the natural makeup of the forest. This tiny path is easily mistaken as a deer trail as it is typically less than half the width of a walking trail. And with spring vegetation and the fall leaves it can easily disappear, hence trail maintenance; marking of the system with bright orange low impact signs affixed to trees along the path that designate motorcycle only for vehicles less than 30" wide.

On a side note, single track trail riders are a unique demographic. These are not your average go fast tear it up mud bogging hooligans looking for a party in the woods. That's what ORV recreation areas are for with wide open dirt bowls, hill climbs and whooped out roads. Single track is the most technical type of riding. It requires focus, patience and a high skill level. That's why in Michigan a five year old can legally operate a motorcycle anywhere on the trail system with a legal guardian so long as they've taken an approved rider safety course, but it's ILLEGAL to operate a quad (4 wheeler) until the age of 16. Anyone can sit on a quad and turn the throttle to start tearing stuff up. Bikes require balance and real skill. Many inexperienced trail riders give up in the first mile of single track and go home with their tail between their legs. Like I said, single track riders are serious, technically focused personally driven individuals that enjoy the challenge that only single track can offer. These are professionals, business owners, entrepreneurs, hard working people that understand the impact their sport has on the environment and their communities, both physically and economically.

I no longer live in Michigan I now live in central Indiana and own and operate two restaurants. As a lover of single track riding I maintain an off road motorcycle that I keep stored with a friend in Michigan where there is an abundance of trail riding options. I typically spend between \$350-\$500 every time I head north to ride in Michigan. Between fuel, food and lodging it's easy and adds up fast. And I'm not alone. Last year I flew to Arizona and rented an off road BMW adventure bike along with a friend and spent four days riding in the desert near the Mexican border. We stayed at great hotels and ate in all kinds of restaurants along the way. I don't want say how much we spent but it wasn't cheap. My point is that the potential economic impact single track riders bring to an area where new trail is laid will likely exceed most estimates. And I'm excited about the idea of going to Ohio to ride new trail! It's a few hours drive! On a side note, consider the economic impact mid-Ohio race track has on the surrounding communities when super bike comes to town. Riders come from all over the country and fill every hotel and restaurant for a few days like a mass migration.

Daniel Stackpoole,

Off road motorcycle enthusiast

Sent from my iPhone