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Comments: As a motorcyclist with a BS in Forest Management, I fully understand the difficulty of trying to meet the needs of the public and doing what is right for the environment. I believe that eliminating or reducing the amount of trails for off-road vehicles, specifically motorcycles, should not take place, and in fact, should be expanded.

It is completely possible for the Forest Service to perform its mandated duty while providing safe trails for motorcycles, timber, recreation, wildlife management and land conservation all at the same time.

The first thing that has to happen is that the Forest Service actually take into consideration the desires of all who use the land, and this includes motorcyclists. I sincerely hope the Forest Service will not just find a legal reason to close or shorten motorcycle friendly areas in our forests simply because we are a small group of users whose collective voice might not be as well organized as other groups, or because a few individuals in our sport misuse our forests. Eliminating or reducing places to ride motorcycles in our forests would be a terrible decision and in my opinion only force motorcyclists to look for other places to ride that are not legal.

If the Forest Service would provide adequate access to areas for motorcyclists, there would be much less damage to other off-limits areas. Motorcyclists in general are law abiding citizens that love the outdoors and should be provided more access to good riding areas, not less. Like I said before, areas for off-road motorcycling can be provided, maintained and even expanded if the Forest Service sets this as one of its goals. There are many motorcyclists who volunteer to help maintain the off-road areas just like there are groups that help maintain trout streams.

Reducing or eliminating access to off-road motorcycles in our forests is something that should only take place in severe cases and then, only if replacement areas to ride are provided. My hope is that the Forest Service will work closely with motorcyclists to provide easy access to plentiful off-road riding opportunities that are safe and well maintained. Not doing so would deny many the opportunity to enjoy our hobby and should be considered just as important as hiking, fishing, hunting, timber, etc.

Thank you for reading my comments and feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments of your own.