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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Stewards of our forests:

General comment: I strongly encourage you to use language from version C - or more prohibitive, revised language to version B - when it comes to Dispersed Recreation (REC-DIS) off-highway vehicle use (MO).

For example: Consider that in version B, page 28, Management Approaches for Motorized Recreation 01 language states: "Consider proposals for improving motorized recreation opportunities including new loop trails...." Under the circumstances described below, no new trails should be considered for MO use.

I live near Tonto National Forest in Carefree and visit often, for bird watching and wildlife viewing, and the peace and quiet of nature. MO vehicles are rented in Cave Creek and they go by my house above the speed limit and over the noise ordinance limit, and then carry this "attitude" into the forest in large numbers. My understanding and experience is that they have been creating their own trails for years, destroying the desert crust, damaging plants, scaring animals, horses and people, etc. Their numbers are increasing.

Because they have created their own trails, going wherever they can "bulldoze" through or to, there are more than enough trails if we stopped now. If anything, the trails should be decreased and no new trails should be considered. (In this, I agree with the decommissioning and barriers of B, but prefer any stronger language in C or any stronger language drafted.)

Also, permits should be required for all MO off of main roads, and we can not rely on self-enforcement. It only takes a small percentage of non-compliance to cause more and tremendous damage.

As the population rises, we must ensure there is a viable forest for the next generations. Stewardship must trump use, or there will be nothing to use. Thank you.