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Title:

Comments: [External Email]Comments for camping limits in Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

[External Email]

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Please accept our comments on camping limits and dispersed camping in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest.

- a. The public prefers dispersed camping spots and that is consistent with the need for social distancing.
- b. There is an inadequate number of dispersed camping spots in the project area. The preferred alternative should address this significant issue.
- c. The pandemic and social distancing requirements have significantly increased the public need for more OHV opportunities.
- d. The pandemic and social distancing requirements have significantly increased the public need for more dispersed camping opportunities.
- e. Abundant dispersed camping sites and motorized trails are essential to keep the public healthy and sane during and after this pandemic.
- f. Dispersed camp sites fill a significant need for retirees, family weekenders, boondockers, and nomads whose lives are fulfilled by these motorized dispersed camping opportunities. All existing dispersed motorized camp sites should be included in the plan as well as new sites to meet the growing need.
- g. Some reasonable visual evidence of public use on multiple use land including dispersed camp sites is acceptable.
- h. All dispersed camp sites are highly-valued contemporary cultural sites.
- i. A healthy human environment depends on adequate access to dispersed camping and motorized recreational opportunities.
- j. The public has been squeezed into too small of an area with too few motorized routes. Every weekend we talk to fellow motorized recreationists and they ask us where they can go to ride trails and camp in dispersed areas.
- k. Agency actions and mining claims are closing much needed dispersed camp spots during a pandemic when the public needs more dispersed camp sites.
- l. Motorized recreation and dispersed camping opportunities should not be closed by the Agency without site-specific data and analysis as required by NEPA guidance.
- m. We have not seen any site-specific data that demonstrates any impact of significance to the natural environment by motorized recreation and dispersed camping when compared to naturally occurring levels of impact and change.
- n. We have not seen any site-specific data that demonstrates that closures of motorized and dispersed camping opportunities produce any significant benefit to the natural environment.
- o. We have not seen any site-specific data that demonstrates significant measurable impacts (compared to naturally occurring) from motorized recreation and dispersed camping.
- p. The agency should not close dispersed camping sites using vegetation, resource management, and travel management plans because this strategy is not aligned at all with the significant public need for these recreation opportunities.
- q. The negative impacts on the natural environment from dispersed camping sites is relatively insignificant when compared to the natural level of environmental impacts. The impact analysis should recognize this fact.
- r. Any significant negative impacts on the natural environment from dispersed camping spots can be

mitigated to a reasonable level in most locations. The impact analysis should recognize this fact and pursue this alternative.

s. It is extremely difficult to go off-trail with the amount of deadfall in the forest now, therefore, the off-trail issue is no longer significant.

t. Wilderness visitors deposit their waste in the wilderness. RV campers dispose of their waste at treatment facilities.

u. Self-contained campers have an acceptable and minimal environmental impact and more dispersed camping sites need to be created to serve this popular form of recreation.

Thank you for considering our comments and issues.

Sincerely,

/s/ CTVA Action Committee on behalf of our 240 members and their families and friends
Capital Trail Vehicle Association (CTVA)[1]
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Contacts:

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[1] CTVA is also a member of Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association (mtvra.com), Blue Ribbon Coalition (sharetrails.org), and New Mexico Off highway Vehicle Alliance (nmohva.org),. Individual memberships in the American Motorcycle Association (ama-cycle.org), Citizens for Balanced Use (citizensforbalanceduse.com), Montana 4X4 Association, Inc. (m4x4a.org), Snowmobile Alliance of Western States (snowmobile-alliance.org), and United Four Wheel Drive Association (ufwda.org)