

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/19/2022 12:00:00 PM

First name: Rory

Last name: Gallagher

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Padilla,

My name is Rory Gallagher and I'm writing to you on behalf of my concerns about widening motorized trails in the Boggy Draw.

My concerns are about trail damage, noise and safety.

I currently reside in Cortez and before that I lived in Moab for 5 years. One of my jobs there was being an off-road guide. I drove Jeeps, Humvees, UTVs and dirt bikes. I thoroughly enjoy off-roading. What I experienced in Moab with larger high performance side by sides was the amount of damage they could do to a trail and to fellow recreators upon impact. I've watched trails I guided on go from jeep width to a trail you could drive 2 full-size trucks down. I feel the 52" trails are for quads or narrow utvs. These vehicles are generally meant for work, like getting a deer or elk out, and not high speed recreation. They are not designed with high performance in mind. Whereas the larger models are designed with speed, power and performance. These can wreak havoc on trails, especially softer trails like the ones found in Boggy Draw. It's also not uncommon for these models to have upgraded exhaust systems. By this I mean higher decibel mufflers that can be heard from almost a mile away. With machines like these people can go much faster on trails. With speed comes higher impact when people make mistakes behind the wheel. I can attest that several off-road enthusiasts I know feel the same about these high performance models.

Based on my past experiences, I believe that widening these trail systems will lead to torn up trails that can be dangerous and need more attention for repair, increased noise levels that disturb surrounding wildlife and recreational users and injury to the operators of these vehicles and other riders on the trails and the use of resources such as EMTs or SAR.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Best regards,

Rory Gallagher