

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 3:55:29 AM

First name: Roxanne

Last name: DeBardi

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to advocate for offroad/motorized recreation to be included in the updated NW forest plan amendment. As a lifelong PNW resident, I grew up with many motorized recreational opportunities. Later in life I shared my love for these activities with my kids. Our ability to responsibly engage in motorized recreation continues to diminish year after year because it is so misunderstood. What people often don't recognize about motorized recreational opportunities is the positive impact it has on kids. It builds confidence when they are able to accomplish a task by using trial and error, and perseverance. It teaches them how to maintain their vehicles (motorcycle, quad, utv, etc). It teaches them the responsibility of maintaining what you want to keep, this includes the lands. We are responsible when it comes to volunteering for clean-ups, picking up others trash, rebuilding what is broken. It teaches them comradery and teamwork. Sometimes it takes two or three kids to help get each other through difficult obstacles. It also helps build fine motor skills and balance, utilizing a clutch, brake (both hand and foot) all at the same time. It also teaches them problem solving when confronting a difficult obstacle. I often say I would rather my kids hold on to handlebars, and not a controller for a video game. They learn about the outdoors and nature, plants, trees, insects, and animals. We take pictures of the things we see then look them up later to talk about them in depth. It also teaches them about the safety when traveling in our woods, bring snacks, water, first aid, and not traveling alone. Offroad and motorized recreation has so many benefits to our kids and families that it would be devastating if we continue to shut them out. We need to continue to promote outdoor recreation of all forms for our kids. Teach them responsibility and good stewardship. Please include increased motorized/offroad recreation and support our children's growth and education outside of a classroom.