

Eliminate the Fish and Game Rule that Closes Trails Designated Open to OHVs

BlueRibbon Coalition, Idaho Recreation Council, and Idaho State ATV Association urge you to support legislation to establish that Idaho Fish and Game does not have authority to restrict, by rule, the use of trails on federal land that are designated as open by the federal land manager (e.g., BLM, US Forest Service).

The Problem:



In approximately one-third of the management units in Idaho, Fish and Game has promulgated a rule **limiting hunters from using Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) on trails on federal lands**. These trails are designated as open to OHV use by the federal land manager. This rule has created tremendous confusion among the OHV and hunting communities, failed to address conflicts between hunters on public lands, and generated animosity both among sportsmen and directed toward Fish and Game.

The rule is unfair and unwarranted because:

- **Idaho Fish and Game lacks authority to regulate travel on federal lands.**
- The rule was initially created to prohibit off-trail travel. Off-trail travel is now prohibited on all federal lands (except in rare instances like sand dunes), so **the rule is no longer needed**.
- **The rule does not provide for a non-motorized experience** because recreational users and hunters not after big game are allowed to use the trails.
- **The rule undermines the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process** on federal lands that results in established travel plans and designated routes.
- Because the rule does not apply to recreational trail users, **enforcement of the rule is difficult**, and often results in unnecessary interference with innocent users' exercise of 2nd Amendment rights.

The Solution:



A legislative solution exists to correct this problem that Fish and Game refuses to correct on its own. The proposed legislation would, quite simply, provide that Idaho Fish and Game has no authority to restrict the use of motor vehicles, such as OHVs, on federal lands. Existing restrictions related to shooting from OHVs, or chasing animals with OHVs, would remain in effect. **Travel designations and restrictions on federal land should only be made by the federal land manager.**

For more information, please visit: the Idaho State ATV Association at idahostateatv.org and the BlueRibbon Coalition at sharetrails.org.

Recreationists fought long and hard to keep these roads open year around!