From: Mervi Rantala
To: Krantz, David
Subject: Motor Vehicle Use on the RRSNF
Date: Saturday, November 26, 2011 11:58:29 AM

I am writing to lend my voice to the thousands of Americans that have previously requested that the Rogue-River Siskiyou National Forest focus motorized recreation on existing Forest Service roads while managing botanical areas, roadless areas and backcountry hiking trails for their special non-motorized values.

I agree with the 2009 letter from Representative DeFazio and Senators Wyden and Merkley to the Forest Supervisor Conroy requesting that lands proposed for wilderness designation by the Forest Service not be designated as off-road vehicle routes. I also agree that the Forest Service should re-think its "plan amendments" to open protected botanical areas, research natural areas, and backcountry non-motorized areas to off-road vehicle use.

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has over 4,500 miles of roads available for motorized recreation and has one of the most extensive and developed ORV trail systems on the West Coast in the Cascades District. There is simply no need to open botanical areas, roadless areas, and research natural areas to the 2% of Forest Users who prefer off-road vehicle use (according to the Forest Service analysis).

The travel management process was not intended to facilitate the costly construction of new motorized ORV trails in sensitive coastal meadow areas. Please withdraw all plans for new construction of motorized ORV trails and allow only motorcycles on motorized trails in the Gold Beach District as was intended with the Siskiyou management plan.

I am discouraged that the Forest Supervisor continues to ignore the American public and the Oregon Congressional Delegation in this planning process. Why are the values of those of us who appreciate botanical diversity and roadless wildlands unimportant to the Forest Service? How should we make those values heard other than participating in the NEPA planning process and contacting our elected officials?

Please respect my values and my voice.

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