



# Shasta County

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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September 19, 2008

Travel Management Team  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
3644 Avtech Parkway  
Redding, CA 96002

Subject: OHV Route Designations

Dear Travel Management Team:

Shasta County is suburban and rural in character. Residents appreciate the outdoors, and the varied recreational opportunities that our region affords. For many of my constituents, recreating involves Off-Highway Vehicles ("OHVs"). This motorized recreation offers family and social recreational opportunities for folks of all ages and walks of life. It's part of what makes Shasta County the wholesome family community that it is.

As you are aware, OHV recreation requires room to roam, with connecting trails and support facilities. Such a trail system exists in Shasta County, spread across public and private roads and lands. It is my hope that this system be maintained in its present form, and enhanced.

The Recreation Outdoor Coalition ("ROC") is a group of local OHV enthusiasts. They share an ardent appreciation for their sport. Many of the ROC members are my constituents, and so I have had occasion to get to know them. Much to my concern, they have recently shared with me their grave concerns, regarding continued OHV access to public lands. On September 18, 2008, the ROC sent a comment letter to your office regarding proposed route designations on Forest Service lands. I have reviewed this document. I find it to be a reasonable and constructive treatise on the use of OHVs on federal land. I wish to express my solidarity with the OHV community, and my fervent hope that an acceptable compromise on the OHV issue may come to pass.

As a potential model, I would suggest that the Forest Service consider the County's oversight of the County road system. Per the Vehicle Code, our County presently permits OHVs on all unpaved County roads. The County is also receptive to Combined Use on paved roads, with CHP consultation and upon demonstration of utility. These arrangements have served well. Most of our roads cross private property, often without formal easements. Nevertheless, these roads enjoy land tenure, through legal concepts of prescription and Implied Dedication. Inholdings are thus not a problem for continuity of roads and trails.

In summary, I would encourage the Forest Service to take an open and pragmatic approach to OHV route designations, as proposed in the ROC letter. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 225-5561.

Very truly yours,

LES BAUGH  
Supervisor, District 5  
County of Shasta

LB/PJM/mlc