

## PLACES OFF-ROAD VEHICLES DON'T BELONG

Presently, the American public believes that there is a place for ATVs, dirt bikes, snowmobiles, and other off-road vehicles on public lands. The majority of Americans also believe that the use of these high-impact machines is not appropriate everywhere. There are many types of public land which should be off-limits to off-road vehicles:

- 1) Designated Wilderness, Research Natural Areas, citizen or agency proposed wilderness, wilderness study areas, roadless areas, and other lands with wilderness character.
- 2) Rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, beaches, wash bottoms, and areas within 200 feet of a riparian area.
- 3) Critical habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species and, seasonally, fawning ground and critical winter and summer range for big game species.
- 4) On routes with the capacity to deliver moderate to high levels of sediment to streams, with slopes prone to failure, that traverse areas with a high probability of frequent flooding flows, or areas covered by highly erodible and otherwise fragile soils including volcanic-based soils and soils potentially bearing biological soil crusts.
- 5) Off designated routes - i.e. unimpeded cross-country travel.
- 6) On redundant routes - i.e. multiple routes that access roughly the same "point B" from the same "point A."
- 7) On trails, in areas, and in watersheds traditionally used by hikers, skiers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, hunters, or other quiet recreationists and sportsmen, particularly those routes where unmanaged recreation has led to motorized encroachment on non-motorized trails.
- 8) Areas containing archaeological finds and cultural and historic sites.
- 9) On unplanned, unengineered, or user-created routes.
- 10) On routes that climb directly up erodible hillsides.

- 11) On routes that were installed for a project-specific purpose and were not decommissioned in compliance with the National Forest Management Act or applicable contracts.
- 12) On routes that are already gated, bermed, re-vegetated, being naturally reclaimed, and/or are closed to public vehicular traffic.
- 13) On routes where evidence indicates motorized vehicle use may be conflicting with reproduction, nesting, or rearing of native plant or wildlife species of concern, including native species whose populations and/or habitat are declining.
- 14) On routes documented as contributing to the spread of exotic species.
- 15) On routes that are exclusively for administration or maintenance of water developments, (for wildlife, livestock, or culinary use) power lines, ground return telephone lines, electronic facilities, gravel pits, sno-tel sites and other administrative uses.
- 16) On routes that are associated with, or lead to, areas with a history of unsuccessful mitigation or prevention of unauthorized off-road vehicle activity and resource damage.
- 17) On routes in watersheds with already high road densities (>1.0 mile per square mile.)