

Date February 8, 2011



RE: **“Roads of Concern”**

Dear Forest Service Roads Specialist,

After our meeting with Forest Service Officials and reviewing the roads on the map designated as “Roads of Concern”, the North Idaho ATV Association Board met to discuss the issue. The “Roads of Concern” designation seems to come only from a survey made up by Forest Service personnel for the sole purpose of raising concerns. The survey uses the sole criteria of the roadway’s physical characteristics to arrive at the “Concern” designation, and ignores the presence, or lack thereof, of any ATV accident statistics or number of ATV citations issued. Had there been an inordinate number of ATV accidents or incidents of reckless behavior on these roads, we could understand the need for mitigating measures for safety purposes. However, that does not seem to be the case.

After review and discussion with our membership, we ask that you keep any measures of mitigation minimal and straightforward. Perhaps increased informational and/or regulatory signage and increased educational information to the public. At a higher cost, which we realize would be a burden to the Forest Service, would be an increased law enforcement presence on the roads where you have concerns. The North Idaho ATV Association Board represents a membership of approximately 400 ATV riders who would be adamantly opposed to restrictions or closure to any of these roads. Therefore, we ask that these roads remain open with no restrictions.

The North Idaho ATV Association Board of Directors would like to thank the Forest Service for their courtesy and professionalism during the discussions regarding the “Roads of Concern”. We look forward to a continued collaborative working relationship with Forest Service personnel for the benefit of both the Forest Service and our membership.

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