

STOPPING OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ABUSE! YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED. The Lincoln National Forest and the Travel Management Rule

Two meetings are being held on Saturday, December 1st for conservation minded folks in southern New Mexico and El Paso to learn more about problems with ORVs, the Travel Management Rule process in the Lincoln National Forest, and how you can make your voice heard. Michael Scialdone of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance will run the meetings. To RSVP or ask questions, contact him at 505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org.

Alamogordo: 1pm to 3pm at the Hampton Inn (1295 Hamilton Road, just off White Sands Boulevard, south end of town near where Hwy 70 and Hwy 54 meet).

Las Cruces: 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Southwest Environmental Center (275 North Downtown Mall)



Off-road vehicles (ORVs - ATVs, dirt bikes, jeeps, etc.) have become a public lands nuisance of epidemic proportions. In many places the blight of the hillsides scarred by ORVs are visible for miles. Their powerful engines and knobby tires designed to grip can quickly tear up trails that were once enjoyed by all users of the forest. Shredded trails erode and pollute streams and other habitat. Conflicts with property owners and those who choose to recreate quietly are on the rise. The negative effects of ORVs on wildlife are being increasingly documented.

In response to the growing problem of ORV abuses and conflicts in our National Forests, the United States Forest Service put forth the Travel Management Rule (TMR). The TMR is a public process that will determine which routes and trails ORVs will be allowed to use in our National Forests. These routes will be published on a Motor Vehicle Use Map readily available to the public. It will be up to ORV users to know which trails are open. Cross-country travel will be banned.

Each National Forest will go through its own TMR process. The Lincoln National Forest is close to releasing its Proposed Action, likely in early 2008. It is critical that those that care about wildlife, a healthy landscape, and quiet recreation get involved by attending public meetings and commenting on which routes the Lincoln NF is proposing to leave open. Learn more on Dec 1st!

