



June 6, 2013

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee,
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

As representatives of national organizations promoting responsible motorized recreation we write in support of and to thank you for crafting the *Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act*. National Forests, known as the "Land of Many Uses" are important to the millions of off-highway motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, recreational off-highway vehicle, four-wheel drive and snowmobile enthusiasts who responsibly recreate on Forests across the country. As a result the off-highway vehicle (OHV) community has a vested interest in ensuring the appropriate management of Forest lands. The *Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act* would help ensure robust and healthy Forests while creating jobs, strengthening rural economies, and reducing the risks of forest fires.

Managed, sustainable and responsible OHV recreation can be a boon to local areas surrounding National Forests; however, this positive impact can be jeopardized when Forests are not managed appropriately, or surrounding communities no longer have the means to provide adequate schools and infrastructure for residents. This legislation would address these issues.

In particular, we are concerned that absent more active management of Forests, wildfires will continue to have a devastating effect not only on OHV recreation but on surrounding homes, businesses and the livelihoods of local citizens. According to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), on average, wildfires burn 4.3 million acres each year in the U.S. Last year, 9.3 million acres burned. With another difficult fire season projected for 2013, it is imperative that action be taken to make Forests less prone to massive wildfires.

The *Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act* will make Forests less susceptible to devastating wildfires by ensuring responsible timber production on areas that have been specifically identified as timber harvest areas. This common sense approach will lead to more active management and healthier Forests and rural economies, and ultimately allow our National Forests to continue to be the Land of Many Uses.

Again, thank you for crafting this legislation and we look forward to working with you as it moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director
Americans for Responsible
Recreational Access

Greg Mumm
Executive Director
BlueRibbon Coalition





Duane Taylor
Director, Federal Affairs
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Russ Ehnes
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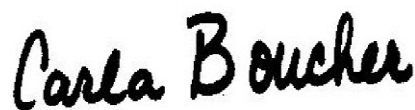
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