

Date February 25, 2012

Senator Mark Udall  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Michael F. Bennet  
458 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Congresswoman Diana DeGette  
2335 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Congressman Jared Polis  
501 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Scott Tipton  
218 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Cory Gardener  
213 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Doug Lamborn  
437 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Mike Coffman  
1222 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Ed Perlmutter  
1221 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation,

Riding **Off-Road** Vehicles on public lands is a popular form of recreation, and when well managed can be highly compatible with the ecological values Americans associate with public lands. For years, though, unmanaged OHV riding has contributed to the deterioration of wildlife habitat. It has damaged soil ecology, caused sediment to run into streams, run wildlife off public land, and intruded on the solitude of hunters,

fishermen, and other recreational users seeking a quiet piece of country.

In order to manage motorized vehicles, the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are beginning to implement a **consistent set of rules** limiting motorized vehicles to designated routes only. Significantly, these rules prohibit OHVs from traveling cross country, or creating their own trails. This change in policy is a welcome if overdue development.

Enforcing these new rules will be a challenge. One barrier to effective management is the inability of eyewitnesses to identify violators. Colorado requires a visible identification number on all OHVs using public land, but the number is **too small** to see in all but the most favorable situations. Usually, the field officers must rely on a physical description of the offender, which rarely if ever results in any enforcement action.

You, our members of Congress, can help law enforcement **identify OHV violators by requiring the identification numbers on registration decals be more visible in the field**. It's worth noting that OHVs are often moving, sometimes at a distance, and even with more visible identification, seeing them clearly won't always be possible. But many people today carry cameras or smart phones with impressive zoom capabilities. These new technologies present a tremendous opportunity for the general public to assist law enforcement in a way that wasn't possible just a few years ago. Photos can be downloaded. If a registration number can be discerned from the photo, then law enforcement can contact the offender, and the appropriate action can be taken, with a minimum of time and resources expended.

We strongly recommend, therefore, that Congress implement the following changes:

- \*Require OHV registration decals that feature a large, bold, **highly visible identification number**.
- \*Require that registration decals be **displayed prominently**, preferably on the front and rear of the vehicle.

The purpose of this effort isn't to punish off-road riders, but to strengthen their legitimacy through more effective management. Off-road recreation benefits local economies, and helps support a diverse business spectrum from manufacturing, to travel, to hospitality. Your prompt attention to this matter will help keep off-road riders on the trail and out of trouble.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director  
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
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Co-Chair  
Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
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Trout Unlimited  
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Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
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President  
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Regional Representative  
Pheasants Forever  
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Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
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St. Vrain Archery and Bowhunting Club  
Stets Newcomb, President  
303-775-3589

Four Corners Backcountry Horsemen  
Bob Volger  
970-563-4185

Mesa Verde Backcountry Horsemen  
Nihla McCabe  
970-570-5036

Front Range Backcountry Horsemen  
Dan Shier  
303-278-1261

Pikes Peak Backcountry Horsemen  
Hank Cole  
719-964-5696

## **Businesses**

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Angling Trade Magazine  
Tim Romano, Co-Owner  
303-495-3967



Traditional Bowhunters Magazine  
T.J. Conrads, Owner  
208-383-0982



Front Range Anglers  
Bill Leuchten, Owner  
303-494-1375



Rocky Mountain Anglers  
Jay Zimmerman  
303-447-2400

Crystal Fly Shop. Com



Crystal Fly Shop  
David Johnson, Owner  
970-963-5741



Scott Rods  
Jim Bartschi, Rod Designer  
970-249-3180



Grand County Fly Fishing Company  
Jeff Ehlert, Owner  
970-726-5231



Monic Fishing Lines  
Ben Potter  
303-530-3050



Wild Trout on the Fly  
Mike Miller



Boss Tin, Fishing and Waterfowl Products  
John and Lori Unger, Owners  
970-731-6740



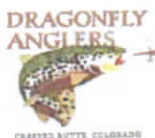
Pins & Fins  
Kendall Carson, President  
970-669-5103



Rigs Fly Shop and Guide Service  
Tim Patterson, Owner  
970-626-4460



The Creek Company  
Dave Gowdy, Owner  
1-800-843-8454



Dragonfly Anglers  
Rod M Cesario  
1-800-491-3079



Fishpond  
Johnny Le Coq, Co-Founder  
970-468-7883



Toads Guide Shop  
Tim Kenney, President  
970-249-0408



Bray Ranches, Private Wildlife Adventures  
Robert Bray, Owner  
970-327-4779



Highlands Unlimited  
Jennifer & Geoff Burbey, Owners  
970-247-8443



Rim Rock Outfitters  
Monty & Rebecca Elder, Owners  
970-675-2619



Beaver Creek Outfitters  
Scott Gesell, Owner  
218-368-3679



J-Bar-H Outfitters  
Jeanne Horne, Owner  
1-800-230-4868



Matschee Guide Service  
Tim Matschee, Owner  
303-864-0547



Crazy Horse Outfitters and Guides  
Willie & Caitlin Swanda, Owners  
970-731-3641



Coffee Pot High Country Outfitters  
Kelley Sanburg  
970-209-2628



Red Feather Guides and Outfitters  
Arnie Schlottman, Owner  
970-524-5054



T Bar M Outfitters  
T. Mike Murphy, Owner  
970-259-5469

Hooked on Flies  
Steve Haupt, Owner

Ice Fishing Colorado  
Mark Taylor, Owner  
303-269-1565

Winter Park Flyfisher  
Jeff Ehlert, Owner  
970-726-5231

Rio Grande Angler  
Kevin Leggitt  
1-877-656-3474

Traditional Archery Products  
Gary and Connie Renfro, Owners  
303-567-4226

Hodiak Outiftters,  
Hodiak (Hody) Ewing, Owner  
970-799-3641

Geneva Park Outiftters  
Terry Lee Sandmeier, Owner  
719-439-4606

The Craig Wild Bunch Guides and Outiftters  
Willie White  
970-824-9334

Wilderness Adventures  
Aaron Laske, Owner  
719 587-3057

cc:

Secretary Ken Salazar  
Secretary Tom Vilsack  
BLM Director Bob Abbey  
USFS Chief Tom Tidwell  
Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper  
Colorado Department of Natural Resources Director Mike King  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director Rick Cables  
New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman