



April 21, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240



Dear Mr. Secretary,



On behalf of the off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation community, we would like to congratulate you on your confirmation as the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. As our nation's largest landlord of federal lands, you have a unique opportunity to make these lands available to the American public in ways never done before in our country's history.



In your short time in office, you have already created a feeling of openness and engagement with the American recreation public. We were pleased when we heard you directed your agency to increase access to our public lands for recreational hunting and fishing when you signed Secretarial Order No. 3347. Since many hunters and fisherman are also motorized recreation enthusiasts, we welcomed your engagement on their specific issues.



But access to federal lands goes beyond just the hunting and fishing community. Off-highway vehicle recreation continues to be an important economic generator in many states. A 2012 study on outdoor recreation found that it contributed more than \$646 billion to the national economy. Forty percent of that amount, more than \$258 billion is directly attributable to motorized recreation. For those of us active in motorized recreation, this number did not surprise us but for many policymakers, this was an astounding number. Communities adjacent to federal lands are the beneficiaries of the economic drivers stemming from motorized recreation, in all seasons of the year.



Given this new sense of openness at the Department, we are hoping this sentiment will soon pervade all DOI offices throughout the country. We, as the OHV community, want to be actively involved in working with your agency in the stewardship of our public lands and in looking for new ways in which these lands can be accessed by motorized recreation in a responsible manner.



The decision of the Congress along with the support of the Trump Administration to jettison BLM's 2.0 planning rule will serve as an important step in turning the page in making public lands owned by the federal government more accessible to all sorts of activity, recreation being an important part of this. As you begin to chart a new course for the Bureau of Land Management, we would like to be a part of this effort.



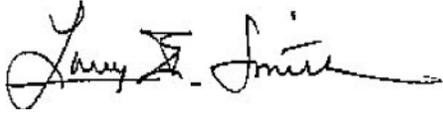
During the last two decades we have become increasingly concerned about the designation of national monuments, especially the size of some of those designations. Invariably, new management plans are prepared for these national monuments and motorized recreation is all too often excluded from these areas even though this activity had been authorized prior to the actual designation.



We are excited that you are leading the Interior Department. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with your executive team so we could share our ideas on how the OHV community can be helpful to you as you lead your department during this critical time especially when financial resources are limited.



Sincerely,



Larry Smith  
Executive Director  
Americans for Responsible Recreational  
Access



Christine Jourdain  
Executive Director  
American Council of Snowmobile  
Associations



Nicole Nicholas Gilles  
Executive Director  
American Sand Association



Don Amador  
Western Representative  
BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.



Duane Taylor  
Director, Federal Affairs  
Motorcycle Industry Council



Russ Ehnes  
Executive Director  
National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation  
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Fred Wiley  
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Steve Egbert  
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United Four Wheel Drive Associations, Inc.