

The following is a letter (with a little editing from me) by Jeff Slavens (of Slavens Racing in Colorado):

I've said many times before and I'll say it again. We (dirt bike riders) are our own worst enemy when it comes to keeping our trails open. We damage the trails (wrong bike, wrong tires, wrong gearing, go off the trail, short-cut the trail, ride trails beyond our skill level), we do stupid stuff (cut doughnuts at the trailhead parking lot, ride roads at 90 mph), are inconsiderate to other trail users (speed past them, scare them, their family, their dog or horse) and we think loud pipes are cool (NOT COOL) or that we need a loud pipe to get more horsepower when we don't have enough talent to ride a stocker. We are all a bunch of goons at one time or another, me included.

Don't get your undies in a bunch by my comments. OWN your actions! Man up, put your big boy pants on and become an ambassador for our sport. Why am I so hard on my fellow dirt bike riders? Many years ago I did my fair share of stupid stuff on trails. Unknowingly at the time, I was a trail goon. I don't like to admit it but I believe in owning my actions, good or bad. My ways changed when a good friend, Big Doug, got in my face and chewed my ass for short-cutting a switchback. I'll never forget it and I'll never do it again. That was the beginning of my evolution of becoming a trail ambassador. Now I've turned into Big Doug. I chew ass or do whatever it takes to preserve my right to ride. I talk to whoever will listen about trail issues, I organize trail clearing/maintenance rides, I stop guys on the trail that are being goons and explain correct trail etiquette. I choose to be a 2 percenter to help keep our trails open. What is a 2 percenter? Less than 2 percent of the dirt bike community (including dealers, online retailers and manufacturers) ever do anything to help with our trails. Yes, 98% of us do nothing, absolutely nothing to keep our trails open. Am I patting myself on my back for being a 2 percenter? No! Am I proud to be a 2 percenter? No! Actually I'm embarrassed that less than 2% of us defend our trails when 100% of us moan, whine and bitch about trail closures. We have many foes. The government, some (not all) USFS managers, tree huggers, companies like REI that donate to the tree huggers, etc. but, **we** are the biggest problem. Every day we give ammunition to the tree huggers. We are the enemy, period!

What can you do to help? Get involved! Work on the trails, go to meetings, join your local trail organizations, join national trail organizations, talk to other riders doing stupid things on the trail, and donate to the organizations that do your dirty work while you are out riding, such as American Motorcycle Association, Blue Ribbon, and MRA. Please consider becoming a trail ambassador.

Happy trails, Jeff Slavens

Make comments Now for the BLM Management Plan:

The Bureau of Land Management is preparing a new plan for the management of BLM lands in western Oregon. The Resource Management Plan (RMP) will make rules that will affect OHV recreation opportunities for the next 20 or more years.

Your comments will make a difference. You can be sure our enemies will be making lots of comments to reduce OHV recreation. They can be specific about a certain trail or area, or general. You can make as many comments as you want, going to the web site below again and again as you think of new

things to comment about. Comments carry the most weight when a reason is given for your opinion or idea. This is an important opportunity to have our voices heard before the decision is made as to where we can and cannot ride.

To learn more about their proposed options go to:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/index.php>

To see and make comments about your favorite riding area on an interactive map go to:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/interactivemap.php>

To make comments go to: BLM_OR_RMPs_WesternOregon@blm.gov

Or mail written comments to BLM Draft EIS, PO Box 2965, Portland OR 97204

Or take written comments to BLM office at 3040 Biddle Rd, Medford

Below are some of the key points that we should be making to the BLM in our comments to their proposed Management Plan. Please “cut and paste” or use some of the ideas, in your own words, in your comments. **The comment period ends on August 21.**

1. Sound is an important issue for all OHV riding areas. I support the MRA proposed plan to reduce the current sound level of 99 decibels to 96 decibels.
2. Instead of blanket OHV closures in all Deer and Elk Winter Range, BLM needs to look at it on a trail by trail basis. If trails are closed to OHV then they also need to be closed to all other uses that cause stress to deer/elk.
3. I support a partnership between MRA and BLM for a year of intensive law enforcement to serve notice to the outlaws in the woods. MRA “Trail Volunteers” will serve as the eyes and ears on the ground and BLM will hire extra law enforcement officers using State OHV Funds to respond to the Trail Volunteers quickly. The RMP should address using volunteers to aid with law enforcement.
4. I believe BLM should **not** manage lands for their wilderness characteristics. I believe that areas should be either designated wilderness or not. We do not need another semi-wilderness designation used as an excuse to prohibit mechanized recreation.
5. I request that the RMP set a goal of increasing total OHV trail mileage or at a minimum keeping the current motorized trail mileage and that the RMP should have provisions for easily creating new OHV trails and areas as the need increases in the future.

6. I would like the RMP to address partnerships between the BLM, MRA and other active OHV clubs. The MRA should be treated as not just as a way to get workers for on the ground projects, but as advisors to all OHV activities on BLM land.
7. Enchanted Timber Recreation Management Area (RMA) - I am in favor of alternative D and making it a motorized OHV area.
8. Enchanted Well RMA- I am **not** in favor of any of the alternatives or making this RMA non-motorized. There are a number of existing OHV trails in this area that are some of my favorites that I ride often, such as Little Italy, Fugawi (which connects to the Wellington Mine Road), and several other trails that form a long loop that goes through Bunny Meadows, up the Poison Oak Trail, and back to the MRA staging areas. The loss of these trails will destroy the only remaining long loop that contains mostly single track trails that I now enjoy.
9. Anderson Addition RMA- I am in favor of Alt D and making it an OHV area, but it should also include all BLM land to the east of Anderson Addition in sections 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29.
10. Quartz Creek OHV RMA- I am in favor of Alt D and keeping it as an OHV area, but it should also include the following areas to the west with existing OHV trails in sections 5, 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, and 31. There should also be a connection to the Forest Service Briggs Creek OHV Trail system.
11. Thompson-Cantrall RMA- I am in favor of Alt D and making it an OHV area with the following exceptions: Alt D says this area is for "dual Sport". I believe that the RMA should not exclude the use of the existing OHV trails, the building of new OHV trails, or the use of non-licensed OHVs.
12. Woodrat Mountain RMA- I am in favor of Alt D and making it an OHV area.
13. Coyote Creek OHV Area- I am in favor of Alt D and making it an OHV area.

Riding Tip #5 by Cooter

Here's a tip that will not only make you a better rider, but also make riding more fun. It's so easy you'll wonder why you never heard 'bout it. Or maybe you heard 'bout it, you just don't do it.

It's drinkin'. No, not moonshine. Water, fool!

Keepin hydrated is the best thing you can do to improve endurance and brain and muscle function. Whoops, I mean muscle function, but muscles need lots of water, too. I get embarrassed when I think 'bout how stupid we were back in the day. I remember going to the Trask Mountain 2 Day Qualifier back in '78. I didn't bring anything to drink, not one drop (except a 6 pack of Pabst Blue Ribbon, but

more about Alkehall later). I rode the whole dang thang in 80 degree heat sweatin inside a Belstaff Jacket (for you young uns, that's a heavy enduro jacket). Well, I ran out of steam, went into survival mode, and was lucky to finish. We (or maybe just dumb ol me) didn't know anything about hydration. I don't think the word was even invented yet.

So, now that I am older and not as stupid, I hydrate before every ride. It's easy, just go to the grocery, plop down \$1.49 on a gallon jug of water, and drink half of it on the way to the riding spot. Drink the other half throughout the day. You will ride better, longer, safer, and feel better afterwards. Do you get cramps or headaches after a hard ride? You're dehydrated! Have you ever proudly bragged about how you lost 5 pounds at the race? Well, that was 5 pounds of water, not fat, dumb ass. Water weighs 8 pounds per gallon, so you were a half-gallon low.

So what's best to drink? Just plain ol water. Sure a little Gator Aid is ok, but don't go crazy. Sodie Pop is no good. Caffeine is terrible. And Alkehall is the worst. Why do you pee so much when you drink alkehall? Because your body is trying its dangest to get rid of the poison, and using the water that makes your brain work to flush it out of you.

Social Media:

The MRA has extended their social reach. Find us now on Instagram @MRADedicated2Dirt

Tag the MRA with the following hashtags #MRA #Dedicated2Dirt #MRA50thAnniversary

Help Wanted:

Communications person needed to organize and develop a radio and cell phone communication plan to tie Lily Prairie to other key spots for races and events. Contact Chuck at csteahly@aol.com

Workers for trail building and maintenance. Contact Steve at ktmpappy@aol.com

Special Thanks:

To **Sweet Water Sanitation** for pumping the pit toilets at the Lillie Prairie and Paradise Trail Heads.

September 9: MRA General Meeting at Par-A-Dice Road Club House, 7PM. All

members welcome