

Why The *Forest Jobs and Recreation Act* Ensures Motorized Recreation

- Local motorized recreation groups and individuals were involved in crafting of this Act.
- Permanently ensures access for OHV's and snowmobiles through creation of eight different recreation areas.
- Leaves more than 6,500 miles of trails and roads open to OHV's, motorcycles, and snowmobiles in the forests impacted by this bill.
- Directs a study of routes for all-terrain vehicles on the Three Rivers District of the Kootenai National Forest.

More Details:

Who put this bill together? Over the years the *Forest Jobs and Recreation Act* has been hammered out by Montanans from all walks of life including local motorized recreation groups and individuals. Some of the motorized groups who provided input include the Deer Lodge Snowmobile Club, Bitterroot Ridge Runners, Jackpine Savages, Philipsburg snowmobilers, Ovando Snowmobile Club, Seeley Lake Driftriders,

Lincoln County Snow Kats, Troy Snowmobile Club, and Kootenai Ridge Riders. Other local and statewide clubs either refused to talk, or suggested changes but were unwilling to make commitments to support the resulting compromises. Because of input from these folks, the bill includes many benefits for the motorized use community.

What kind of assurances do motorized users get from this bill? Due to the involvement of motorized users in the process of forming the bill, the *Forest Jobs and Recreation Act* would permanently keep open motorized areas throughout the state. These areas include two National Recreation Areas, one Recreation Management Area, and one National Protection Area on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest; one National Recreation Area on the Lolo National Forest; and a Special Management Area on the Kootenai National Forest.

I've heard this is just a wilderness bill in disguise

This is a forest bill and represents the culmination of years of work by people from all walks of life. Timber mills and other stakeholders would not be onboard if this bill did not generate a more predictable flow of wood products. Federal funding sources will also be used to create family-wage jobs by investing in projects that make our forests healthier and forest communities safer from forest fire. But won't the nearly 700,000 acres of new wilderness be eliminating a lot of people from their public lands? The freedom to access Montana's forests to hunt, fish, camp, and recreate is part of Montana's cherished outdoor tradition and public lands remain free for all to enjoy. If passed, there will still be more than 6,500 miles of trails and roads for motorized traffic on three national forests alone. The proposed wilderness areas are already managed as wilderness and will continue to be used for Montana's quiet traditions, such as hiking and horseback riding. Montana is big enough for everyone.