



Toolkits for the Quiet Majority

Challenging Public Funding of Motorized Recreation

Action Step #2

Documenting ORV Effects, Interviewing Property Owners and Analyzing Field Data

Once you have analyzed public data received about local snowmobile and/or ATV clubs you will know where publicly funded routes are supposed to be (if required and requested maps were provided) and who lives along these routes. This step involves walking the route. Ideally you would walk routes at least twice and especially in the spring and fall. This step is also most easily completed with one or two friends along.

a. Documenting and Analyzing Effects on Publicly Funded Routes: Contact MRR once you've collected this data

Begin by assembling a team of friends and the following tools in a backpack:

- Copies of MRR's attached *ORV Effects Checklist*
- Camera: A digital camera is best as the photos can be correlated with GPS points you will take (remember to bring extra batteries and memory cards)
- Map(s) of the route or GPS Unit

Walk the funded route and observe effects listed in the attached checklist. The objective is to provide simple data paired with photos about conditions on and adjacent to the route.

Once you have gathered your data you can answer important questions:

- Is the funded route where it is supposed to be on your map?
- Are riders staying on route? Have "user made" routes been created?
- Are riders traveling in wetlands or streams?
- Is there damage in need of repair? Use the attached *Cost of Restoration Analysis Form* to estimate cost to repair damaged areas.

b. Interviewing Property Owners along Funded Routes

If land ownership lists or easements are obtained in your data request send the attached letter to people on the list. Property owners along a funded route will be the best source for documenting any unwanted effects of noise, fumes, danger to others or rowdy behavior. Property owners adjacent to motorized recreation routes often suffer in silence and can feel isolated and alone. Send the attached letter to neighboring property owners also. Go to your public library and ask your librarian to help you look up the names and addresses for people along identified roads. Many will welcome your interest with surprising responses!