

File Code: 2350 (8999822)

Date:

MR. STEVE ELLIS

Chair

National Association of Forest Service Retirees

P.O. Box 277362

Fort Collins, CO 80527

Dear Mr. Ellis,

Thank you for your December 12, 2025, letter to Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz regarding the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service's 2005 Travel Management Rule (TMR). I appreciate your advocacy for sustainable resource stewardship and access to National Forest System lands. I would also like to thank you and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees for your service. I am responding on behalf of the Forest Service.

The Forest Service acknowledges resource management concerns related to the TMR and the need for regulations and maps for public motor vehicle access. We are working to rescind or revise the TMR to provide more flexibility for local decision making, streamline planning requirements and map updates, and increase access while protecting resources. President Trump's Administration recently announced this action as part of the *Spring 2025 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions*.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation has grown tremendously, and technological improvements have made more vehicles available to the public. While some OHVs are bigger and more powerful, others are smaller and use low-power electric motors. The Forest Service and other land managers are facing new challenges with enforcement, user conflicts, and resource impacts as demand for OHV recreation access is increasing rapidly. Additionally, technological improvements have spurred promising new devices for individuals with mobility challenges. Regulations must be updated to allow new technology to benefit the public while conserving and protecting natural and cultural resources.

Again, thank you for writing and for your interest in the Nation's forests and grasslands. We look forward to your input during the regulation revision process. If you have additional questions, please contact Garrett Villanueva, National Travel Management Program Manager, at (530) 721-6582 or garrett.villanueva@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

John W. Crockett
Deputy Chief
National Forest System

