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Allegheny National Forest  
Plan Revision  
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You may comment on any parts of the DEIS and PLRMP. The following topics will help you focus your comments and help us to better respond to your comments. You do not have to fill in every section in order to comment. At the end of the form, you will find a place to comment on other issues, alternatives, management direction and monitoring. Feel free to use additional pages.

**Issues in the DEIS (please check the topics you are commenting on)**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Vegetation                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Diversity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Areas including Roadless Areas and Wilderness |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Concerns  |  |  |

The 1986 Plan, as well as the similar 12 Point Resolutions adopted by 19 municipalities, 3 Local Development Districts of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and a number of school districts called for in excess of 300 miles of ATV trails within the Intensive Use Areas on the Allegheny National Forest. This objective has not been met and the preferred alternative C, by proposing 173 miles of ATV trails, indicates that there is no intention of ever having 300 miles of trail.

In recent years, ATV use has become an increasingly popular form of recreation in the Allegheny National Forest, with revenue from ATV permits totally approximately \$221,790 in 2003, \$243,260 in 2004, and \$210,750 in 2005. Given the increased popularity of ATV use in the Allegheny National Forest, creating an excess of 300 miles of ATV trails would bring a greater number of people into contact with the Forest and ultimately create much needed economic benefits for local communities.

ATV use has a much greater economic impact on local communities than non-motorized recreation. For example, the Allegheny National Forest data estimates that the direct economic impact to the Allegheny National Forest four county area from ATV use is \$17 million annually. Therefore, the Proposed Plan must recognize the economic benefits associated with ATV's and increase the number of trail miles to an excess of 300 miles in order to generate more revenue for local communities from ATV use. These potential benefits to local communities were ignored in the Proposed Plan.

Alternatives A and B offer a greater number of ATV trail miles (181 miles and 232 miles respectively) than the preferred alternative C (173 miles), but none of the alternatives reach the 1986 proposal for in excess of 300 miles of trail. Therefore, the Proposed Plan must be rescinded and revised so that the preferred alternative increases the miles of ATV trails to the 300 miles originally contemplated in the 1986 Plan by expanding the number and/or size of Intensive Use Areas (which currently limit the miles of trail available) or by removing special land use designations which preclude the use of ATV's. Such revisions would adequately consider the needs of local communities and allow these communities to enjoy the economic benefits associated with ATV use that are

described above, while also increasing the number of people that frequent the Allegheny National Forest.