

As many of you are aware, national forests in our Northern California Congressional District have been in the process of implementing travel management plans for off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on public lands. Instead of coming up with reasonable regulations to better balance OHV-use with other forest users, the agency has used this policy as yet another tool to restrict access to your federal lands. In addition to eliminating upwards of 90 percent of the routes previously utilized by OHVs, the Forest Service has chosen to classify gravel roads, known as "maintenance-level 3" (ML-3) roads, as "highways," effectively banning OHV-use despite state and local authorities allowing such on similarly-surfaced roads outside the boundary of Forest Service lands.

Going back nearly two years, I and several other representatives have repeatedly [asked](#) the Forest Service to change course and work with our local communities and OHV-users on a balanced approach. Despite our best efforts, the agency has continued to move forward with implementing travel management plans in the face of overwhelming opposition. For these reasons, I have introduced legislation, [H.R. 242](#), that would prohibit the Forest Service from moving forward with the plan until it has considered adding additional routes that were previously taken off the table, and prohibit ML-3 roads to be designated as "highways." I look forward to working with the new majority in the House of Representatives on passage of this legislation and other commonsense policies to ensure full and open access to our national forests and other public lands.