



Responsible Trails America

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OFF-ROAD VEHICLES (ORVs): A PATTERN OF RECKLESS & VIOLENT BEHAVIOR THAT IS SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL

10/6/08 – Rider Injured Due to Barbed Wire Hung Across Trail at Neck Level.

“While dirt biking around Basalt Mountain with his friends last month, local rider Bill Keenan almost lost his head — literally. And the backcountry accident has some wondering whether tensions between dirt bikers and hunters are mounting. According to the 37-year-old local equipment operator, a single piece of barbed wire was tightly strung between two aspen trees at neck level on Dead Cow Trail near Red Table Road and Cottonwood Pass. Keenan said he avoided certain death that day by springing from his bike just in time to partially block the razor-sharp rope. “It was terrifying! I was going over 30 miles per hour, saw the wire from about 3 feet away and I jumped off my bike,” Keenan said. “If I wouldn’t have done that, it would have cut my head off!” [Aspen Daily News, 8/6/08]

8/26/08 - ORV Rider Leads Sheriff’s Deputy on High-Speed Chase.

“An ATV rider clocked doing 75 mph eluded a sheriff’s deputy in an afternoon chase Friday. Around 5:30 p.m. an Ottawa County Sheriff’s deputy saw the ATV rider near the intersection of Williston and Walbridge roads and attempted to pull the driver over. The driver then fled on the ATV, driving through a yard in the 4700 block of Martin Williston where small children were playing, according to the sheriff’s report. The deputy located the driver a short time later on Opfer-Lentz Road where the driver fled the deputy at speeds up to 75 mph. The deputy last saw the driver heading northwest through farm fields toward Ohio 579. [Port Clinton News Herald, 8/26/08]

7/14/08 - Child Killed While Riding ORV as Citizens Take Action Into Own Hands

“When 13-year-old Nicholas Parisot died aboard his off-road motorbike in June, ATV enthusiast Dan Salomone was sickened and saddened, but not shocked. Nicholas, of Wilton, was killed when he struck a rope tied between trees across a private trail where he was riding, Wilton Police Capt. Michael Lombardo said. Nicholas died of neck injuries. Many ATV riders like Salomone, though, said they see Nicholas’ death as an example of what can happen when tensions between riders and property owners escalate.”

8/9/08 – Fishing Line with Treble Hooks Found Hanging from Trees as “Vigilante Tactics” Continue

“Illegal and irresponsible use of all-terrain vehicles is one of the biggest complaints registered by landowners – whether they be private individuals, commercial interests or state agencies...’Residents of the area have been discovering boards with nails buried into the ground to flatten tires,’ wildlife conservation officer Seth Mesoras wrote in an agency report. ‘They also discovered fishing line with treble hooks attached hanging from tree limbs.’ That has put Mesoras in an unusual situation of trying to apprehend both illegal ATV riders on the one hand, and someone who is also trying to stop the illegal activity on the other... Mesoras has appealed for public help in dealing with what he described as ‘these dangerous vigilante tactics,’ asking that anyone with information relay it to the regional office.” [The Tribune –Democrat, Joe Gordon Column, 8/9/08]

5/20/07 – 3 Men Face Charges in Beating Death Linked to Loud Off-Road Vehicles

“Three Mint Hill men charged with murder turned themselves in over the weekend, a week after police say they beat a man to death after a fight that started over some noisy all-terrain vehicles. Russell Nelson McGee, 21, surrendered to police Friday night and brothers Beau Justin Baskin, 17, and Daniel Heath Baskin, 23, turned themselves in Saturday morning. Two of the men were in Mecklenburg jail Saturday afternoon with no bond, charged with murder, three counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of conspiring to commit a felony. Daniel Baskin's status was unclear. They are charged in the slaying of 21-year-old Andrew Chester, who died Monday at Carolinas Medical Center. Three others were injured in the altercation.” [Charlotte Observer, 5/20/07]

1/11/08 - Woman threatened at ORV planning meeting with a “bullet in the head.”

“The Bitterroot National Forest abruptly canceled a public meeting in Stevensville on updating its travel management plan following a crowded and sometimes unruly meeting on the same topic the night before in Darby. People cursed during the Darby meeting, and the U.S. Forest Service is following up on reports that a man suggested someone “put a bullet in her head” as a woman spoke... Miller said the crowd was heavily weighted in favor of pro-motorized recreation. People were “aggressive, belligerent and angry. ... The ‘f-word’ was used more than once in comments.”... At one point, as a woman spoke about wilderness, a man in the crowd allegedly said, “Put a bullet in her head.” His words were loud enough for a number of people to hear, including a Forest Service official.” [Missoulian, 1/11/08]

3/25/08 – Father, son charged after attack on men with ORVs in the woods

A father and son from Brimfield Road were arraigned yesterday on charges they assaulted two brothers, poking one in the eye with a stick and choking the other, after a dispute over ATV use in the area Saturday. Scott Kelleher, 50, and his son, Sean Kelleher, 27, of 1300 Brimfield Road, were arrested hours after someone from their home called police about ATVs traveling in the woods near their property. [Telegram & Gazette (Massachusetts), 3/25/07]

1/8/08 - Motorized users plead guilty to terrorizing campers.

“Two men who were part of a group that allegedly terrorized campers in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area during a drunken shooting spree have pleaded guilty to reduced charges and agreed to testify against the four other defendants... There was evidence the rampage was fueled by resentment in the Ely area over the environmentalism that led to the creation of the BWCA and its ban on motorized recreation in most of the wilderness area.” [Associated Press, 1/8/08]

3/25/08 – ORV trail sabotaged with roofing nails

“San Bernardino NF - On 3/25, an LEO investigated an illegal OHV trail that had been sabotaged with roofing nails. An equestrian rider reported she found several of the nails in her horse’s hooves. The investigation is continuing.” [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2008]

5/26/08 – Rider punches officer in the mouth, resists arrest and attempts to flee

“Southwest Las Vegas Metro area, NV - On 5/26, a Las Vegas Ranger attempted to make contact with two ATV riders regarding the operation of motor vehicles within the off-road vehicle closure area. The ATV's were located on public lands near the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center. The ATV riders were uncooperative and proceeded to travel across previously undisturbed desert. The ATV riders returned to the shoulder of the road and the Ranger made a vehicle stop on the two ATV's. One rider became immediately verbally confrontational and non-compliant with the Ranger's commands. The man became increasingly agitated during the contact, escalating and de-escalating his behavior by refusing to follow orders, not providing identification and then yelling at the officer. When the Ranger attempted to deploy his OC spray, the man sprinted toward a residential area. A BLM Ranger and an SA responded to assist. The man became compliant and returned to his ATV. The man had an extensive and violent criminal

record to include officer safety flags. Back-up officers arrived, and the man again became non-compliant and attempted to walk away from the officers. As a Ranger began to handcuff the man he struck the Ranger in the mouth and attempted to flee on foot. The man was taken into custody and transported to jail on charges of assault on an officer and resisting arrest/citation." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2008]

6/8/08 – ORV riders flee from law enforcement – cause high speed chase

"NF's in Florida - On 6/8, LEO's arrived at the Volusia Bear Hole and observed several vehicles mudding illegally and other vehicles attempting to leave the area through another trail. LEO's attempted to stop three vehicles which began to flee. Two of the three vehicles pulled over. An LEO continued after the third vehicle which continued to flee at a high rate of speed. The LEO attempted to follow the vehicle which was operating on the narrow trail at speeds over 70 mph, but was unable to locate it. Several violation notices for damaging lands with a motor vehicle were issued." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2008]

9/30/07 - ORV riders involved in violent fight.

"On 9/30 at 0200 hours, four people were involved in a fight on an OHV trail system on the Uwharrie NF/Uwharrie RD. Two people sustained significant lacerations to the head and one received a laceration to the hand. Two vehicles were damaged and a handgun was discharged during the incident. Two of the suspects left the scene on foot and were found later that morning. Deputies, EMS, and an LEO responded to the incident. Several people were interviewed and one handgun was seized. On 10/1, the LEO issued mandatory appearance violation notices for disorderly conduct to three people." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

9/4/07 Fight over reckless ORV riding sends 2 to hospital.

"A neighborhood dispute over an all-terrain-vehicle complaint Sunday night north of Brainerd turned into a brawl as four people were arrested and two others suffered minor injuries and were treated at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd, according to the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department. Crow Wing County Sgt. Andy Bradley said Monday that a homeowner on Birchdale Road near Brainerd International Raceway apparently made a complaint to the sheriff's department Saturday about a neighbor's ATV use on the roadway." [Brainerd Dispatch, 9/4/07]

9/1/07 - ORV riders use vehicle to hit another land user.

"OHIO - Wayne NF - On 9/1, a man from Marion, OH was apparently shot in the leg at an FS ORV area. The victim was met by a Lawrence County SD deputy and escorted to a nearby hospital. The man refused treatment and was released from the hospital. The man's fiancée later told an LEO that the shooting was the result of an altercation that took place with unidentified campers at the Hanging Rock ORV area on the Ironton RD. The altercation involved intoxicated individuals who attempted to use a hatchet and an ATV to strike one of them. There are no identified witnesses to the shooting." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

7/15/07 – Man resists arrest, drags trooper with ATV

A 27-year-old man dragged a trooper through a parking lot as he tried to flee on an all-terrain vehicle early this morning, police said. At about 4 a.m., state troopers and Fallsburg police approached Gillian Trujillo, of Twin Bridge Road in the Town of Liberty, while he was stopped in the parking lot of Nina's Restaurant. Police had received complaints of ATV riders driving erratically on Route 52. At first, Trujillo stepped off the four-wheeler, but as troopers tried to take him into custody, he got back on the vehicle and attempted to flee. Trooper Paul VanValkenburg's lower left leg got caught in the rear wheel of the ATV, but Trujillo continued to flee, police said. Somehow, though, VanValkenburg managed to take

Trujillo to the ground, officials said. VanValkenburg suffered abrasions and swelling to his leg and was treated at Catskill Regional Medical Center. He is expected back on duty soon. Trujillo was charged with second-degree assault, a felony, and driving while intoxicated, a felony because of previous DWI convictions, police said. He was also charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. Trujillo was arraigned in Fallsburg Town Court and sent to Sullivan County Jail on \$25,000 bail. [Times Herald Record, 7/15/07]

7/13/07 – Man could face charges in ATV crash

A Bennington man may face criminal charges after he crashed his ATV on Saturday, injuring himself and his passenger, according to Vermont State Police in Shaftsbury. Police suspect the man of driving under the influence. Nicholas Remington, 23, was driving a Yamaha ATV about 9:15 p.m. Saturday on Hidden Valley Road in Pownal, with Matthew Rice as a passenger, when he lost control and struck trees beside the road, police said. [Burlington Free Press, 7/13/07]

6/18/07 - ORV involved in hit & run.

"Bill Burgund can't forget the day he was run over by an outlaw ATV rider...In a matter of seconds, Burgund's tranquil jaunt turned into a nightmare. He was nearing a sharp corner when an ATV suddenly appeared on the trail. "This guy came screaming around the corner on an ATV," Burgund remembers. "I think he was probably going close to 45 miles per hour. I never heard him coming." Burgund had just enough time to crouch. The ATV slammed into his crutch. A piece of his clothing or maybe his crutch latched onto the machine for a split second. And then he was slammed to the ground. "It took my arm out from under me," Burgund said. "It snapped me around and tore up my shoulder. I ended up on the ground screaming in pain." Burgund looked up at the ATV rider. The man glanced over his shoulder and then sped off." [The Missoulian, 6/18/07]

4/23/07 – ATV riders charged with trespassing, resisting officers

Police continue to patrol Reidsville's industrial park after the arrests of two people who were riding all-terrain vehicles this past weekend. Stephen Dewayne Pyrtle of 245 Millstone Road in Summerfield and Bennie Thomas Cox of 7814 Charles Place Drive in Kernersville are charged with resisting officers and second-degree trespassing, according to a police report. Police caught the men riding four-wheelers in an undeveloped section of the Reidsville Industrial Park. Police Capt. Guilio Dattero said ATV riders destroying city-owned property has been a problem for some time. [Reidsville Review, 4/23/07]

4/7/07 - ORV rider resists arrest.

"SOUTH CAROLINA - Francis Marion & Sumter NF's On 4/7, an LEO stopped a group of OHV riders on an NFS Road on the Wambaw RD. While questioning the group, the LEO could smell the odor of alcohol from a man who was operating an ATV. The man was uncooperative and was eventually arrested for disorderly conduct. During transport to jail, the man became verbally abusive toward the LEO and kicked the patrol vehicle's cage several times. Upon arrival, the LEO needed assistance from several jail personnel to bring the man into the booking room." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

4/6-8/07 – Rowdies grow out of control at Little Sahara, say critics

Was it just another Easter weekend at the dunes? Or is there a problem at Little Sahara Recreation Area? An environmental group has charged that the popular gathering spot for off-highway vehicle enthusiasts in Juab County, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, has gotten out of control. As proof, the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) cites a federal law enforcement report that described "near riot conditions" on two separate nights over the April 6-8 holiday weekend, plus 37 instances in which medical assistance was rendered and a final tally of 300 incidents that resulted in arrests or citations. Altogether, an estimated 35,000 people visited Little Sahara over Easter, lured as

always, by the wide open and hilly terrain the dunes provide for motorized recreation. [Salt Lake Tribune, 5/22/07]

4/5/07 - ORV riders shoot at National Guard.

"BOISE, Idaho – For years, ATV-riding, gun-toting sport shooters have flouted gun laws in part of Idaho's high desert by taking pot shots at ground squirrels and other animals. Now, officials say, they're also setting their sights on National Guard tanks that train in the area. Rifles and pistols have been banned in a 68,000-acre area of the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area since 1996." [Associated Press, 4/5/07]

3/10/2007 – ATV rider charged in attack

A 16-year-old Coram boy has pleaded not guilty to felony assault and other charges after, officials say, he struck a forest ranger with his all-terrain vehicle when the officer tried to stop him from riding illegally on state-managed land. [Newsday, 3/10/07]

2/23/07 – Officer injured chasing ATV theft suspect

A police officer injured his ankle late Wednesday in the woods off Great Hill Road while searching for a man who stole an all-terrain vehicle. [New Haven Register, 2/23/07]

2/14/07 - ORV rider threatens and intimidates public land official.

"OREGON - BLM - Prineville District, OR - On 2/14, the Prineville SA received a report that a BLM employee was being intimidated and threatened...The SA and the Ranger responded to the scene and found the employee to be very emotionally upset. He had been contacted by an adjacent property owner who didn't want the fence put up adjoining his property because it eliminated his ATV access to public lands from his property. (The area was closed to off road vehicle use based upon the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan)... Upon conclusion of the investigation on 4/20, the man was charged with threatening/offensive conduct toward the BLM employee. He is scheduled to appear in court on 7/9." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

1/7/07 - ORV rider drags sheriff's deputy several hundred feet.

"Police say a Dry Branch man dragged a Kanawha County Sheriff's Deputy several hundred feet as the officer clung to the back of an ATV. Deputy J.M. Vernon spotted William C. Moles, 32, in the Giles area of Cabin Creek driving a four-wheeler with a shotgun on the front rack, according to a criminal report filed in Kanawha County." [Charleston Daily Mail, 1/1/07]

1/4/07 - ORV riders charged with threatening Forest Service officers.

"FLORIDA - NF's in Florida - Ocala NF - On 1/4, LEO's attended two court trials that included charges for threatening and intimidating a Forest Officer. The incident occurred on 8/20/06. On that date, LEO's responded to a call for assistance from an FPO who had contacted a group of OHV riders to give out information. The riders yelled, swore at, and intimidated the FPO until she left the location and contacted the LEO's. The LEO's contacted the riders at the same location, but they were still noncompliant. The LEO's issued violation notices to them...Both defendants were sentenced to pay substantial fines." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

7/30/06 - ORV rider pleads guilty to assaulting hikers.

"IDAHO - Clearwater NF - A man from Stevensville, MT recently agreed to plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge of disturbing the peace after allegedly operating his motorcycle in a roadless area and assaulting a group of Sierra Club backpackers on 7/30/06...The incident occurred when the backpackers spotted the motorcycles on a trail in an unauthorized area in the North Fork RD. When

three of the hikers stepped out on the trail to photograph the motorcycles and riders, the lead rider accelerated down the trail and deliberately struck one of the hikers." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

3/07 – Fist fight over illegal ORV riding leads to shooting.

"OHIO - Wayne NF - In March 2007, LEI was notified that the Washington County SD responded to a shooting at the Haught Run CG on the Athens RD. Two campers (a father and son), armed with a shotgun and a .22 caliber pistol confronted a group of illegal ATV riders because of the noise they were making. An intoxicated individual in the ATV group struck the son. The father shot the ATV rider in the abdomen with the pistol. The father was arrested and charged with felonious assault. The son was arrested and charged with tampering with evidence. Both stood trial in the Washington County Courthouse. In March, the son was convicted on 1 count of tampering with evidence and sentenced to serve 180 days in jail. On 5/30, the father was convicted on two counts of felonious assault and sentenced to serve two years in jail." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

4/7/07 – Intoxicated rider becomes verbally and physically abusive after arrest.

"ARIZONA - Prescott NF - On 4/7, an LEO stopped a group of OHV riders on an NFS Road on the Wambaw RD. While questioning the group, the LEO could smell the odor of alcohol from a man who was operating an ATV. The man was uncooperative and was eventually arrested for disorderly conduct. During transport to jail, the man became verbally abusive toward the LEO and kicked the patrol vehicle's cage several times. Upon arrival, the LEO needed assistance from several jail personnel to bring the man into the booking room." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

11/24/07 – ORV rider initiates dangerous, high speed pursuit – nearly runs over officer.

"CALIFORNIA - Imperial Sand Dunes, CA - On 11/24, BLM Rangers attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a motorcycle jumping a large dune in an unsafe manner and not displaying a required safety flag. The rider, upon seeing one of the Ranger's marked vehicle, quickly accelerated and then nearly collided with another BLM Ranger on an ATV who also attempted to stop him. The motorcycle accelerated and continued to fail to stop as it headed toward several camps on the outside edge of the Dune Buggy Flats area. Two Imperial County SD Deputies on marked ATV's also attempted to stop the motorcycle as it continued through several large camps at unsafe and reckless speeds and then began to pull away from responding units. Officers, unable to keep up, followed from a safe distance in an effort to keep visual contact. The suspect then hit a worm hole away from the camps, lost control of his motorcycle, and crashed at speeds estimated near 60 mph. Deputies and Rangers arrived on scene and immediately requested that EMS respond. As he was being treated by Rangers and EMS personnel, the suspect repeatedly stated that he had run from the officers because "he didn't want another ticket", "that his license was suspended" and "that he didn't want his buddy's bike to get towed". It was also determined that the suspect was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. He was later airlifted to a hospital with a collapsed lung and other injuries. The suspect is facing pending charges to include felony reckless driving, evading, DUI, driving while suspended, as well as several other misdemeanor charges." [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

10/6/07 – Man uses ORV to "roost" law enforcement official.

CALIFORNIA - Dumont Dunes Recreation Area (BLM), CA - On 10/6, a Ranger was assigned to quad patrol at the Dumont Dunes Recreation Area. At roughly 2130 hours, the Ranger observed a quad approach his location at a high rate of speed. When the quad was within a few feet of the another Ranger's vehicle, it turned sharply and accelerated, throwing sand and rocks all over them and the marked patrol vehicle (commonly known as roosting). The suspect lost control of his quad and clipped the Ranger's marked BLM patrol quad that was parked approximately 20 feet in front of them. The

suspect wrecked and the Ranger responded to his location. The suspect appeared to be getting up to run at which point the Ranger placed his body weight on top of him and held him to the ground. The suspect ignored verbal commands to put his hands behind his back. With assistance, the Ranger was able to apply handcuffs to the suspect's wrists. EMS responded. The suspect refused medical care, was cited, and released. [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

10/7/06 – ORV riders caught in fire closure area curse and threaten officers.

CALIFORNIA - Los Padres NF - On 3/23, two men, ages 20 and 23, pleaded guilty in U.S. Magistrate Court to one count each of threatening, resisting, intimidating or interfering with a forest officer. They were each sentenced to serve 40 hours of community service, and one was ordered to pay \$320 restitution to the FS. The case began on 10/07/06 when the men entered into a Forest fire closure in Ballenger Canyon OHV area and two FPO's contacted them. The men initially refused when asked to identify themselves. As the FPO's attempted to write the citations, the men called them names and cursed at them. While the FPO's explained the citations to the men, one of them sounded his vehicle's horn numerous times, interfering with the officers. After the citations were issued, the men told the officers they would take care of the matter later, intimidating the officers. [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

8/20/06 – Female forest officers calls for back-up after riders verbally assault and intimidate her.

FLORIDA - NF's in Florida - Ocala NF - On 1/4, LEO's attended two court trials that included charges for threatening and intimidating a Forest Officer. The incident occurred on 8/20/06. On that date, LEO's responded to a call for assistance from an FPO who had contacted a group of OHV riders to give out information. The riders yelled, swore at, and intimidated the FPO until she left the location and contacted the LEO's. The LEO's contacted the riders at the same location, but they were still noncompliant. The LEO's issued violation notices to them. The defendant at the first trial was found guilty of possession of alcohol where prohibited and threatening and intimidating a Forest Officer. The second defendant, prior to his trial for threatening and intimidating a Forest Officer, operating an OHV on a public road (two counts), and failure to title an OHV, changed his plea to guilty. Both defendants were sentenced to pay substantial fines. [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]

6/16/07 – Violent fight breaks out – ORV rider hit in the head with a football-sized rock.

WASHINGTON - Okanogan-Wenatchee NF - On 6/16, an LEO/K9 team responded to an NFS road near Munds Park where two ATV riders had been ambushed and assaulted by persons previously unknown to them. The victims were riding their ATV's on an NFS Road when they were passed by the suspects riding ATV's at a high rate of speed. The two groups exchanged words, with the victims claiming they did not want to fight. The suspects drove on, pulled into the trees at the side of the road and waited for the victims. One rider was hit in the head with a football-sized rock, drug off the ATV, kicked, and punched. The other rider was tackled off his moving ATV and sustained a possible broken foot. The fight was broken-up by a bystander. As the suspects fled the scene, they reportedly said they would be back with guns to finish the job. Coconino County SD Deputies later identified the suspects and charges are pending. [U.S. Forest Service, Law Enforcement Incident Report, 2007]