

Ordinance

An ordinance designating certain roads located primarily in Okanogan County Commissioner District #1 and portions of District #2 as open to use by wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles.

Whereas: Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1632 states the legislature finds that off-road vehicle users have been overwhelmed with varied confusing rules, regulations, and ordinances from federal, state, county, and city land managers throughout the state to the extent standardization statewide is needed to maintain public safety and good order, and

Whereas: Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1632 states it is the intent of the legislature to : (a) Increase opportunities for safe, legal, and environmentally acceptable motorized recreation; (b) decrease the amount of unlawful or environmentally harmful motorized recreation; (c) generate funds for use in maintenance, signage, education, and enforcement of motorized recreation opportunities; (d) advance a culture of self-policing and abuse intolerance among motorized recreationists; (e) cause no change in the policies of any governmental agency with respect to public land; (f) not change any current ORV usage routes as authorized in chapter 213, Laws of 2005; (g) stimulate rural economies by opening certain roadways to use by motorized recreationists which will in turn stimulate economic activity through expenditures on gasoline, lodging, food and drink, and other entertainment purposes; (h) and require all wheeled all-terrain vehicles to obtain a metal tag, and

Whereas: Consistent with Revised Code of Washington 46.09.455(c)(i) A person may not operate a wheeled all-terrain vehicle on a public roadway within the boundaries of a county, not including non-highway roads and trails, with a population of fifteen thousand or more unless the county by ordinance has approved the operation of wheeled all-terrain vehicles on county roadways, not including non-highway roads and trails, and

Whereas: Okanogan County Code 10.10 authorizes the operation of off-road vehicles on county roads designated for that purpose, and

Whereas: Okanogan County has conducted a public review, which included meetings with personnel from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Forest Service, and Department of Natural resources as well as members of the public attending scheduled work sessions on a proposal to open certain county roads located primarily in County Commissioner District #1 and portions of District #2 with a posted speed limit of 35 miles-per-hour or less that are not already designated for WATV use, and

Whereas: As a result of the aforementioned meetings roads that were otherwise eligible for use by WATV's were excluded from the proposal due to the high likelihood of damage to critical areas brought about by illegal ridership, and

Whereas: The SEPA Responsible Official for Okanogan County prepared an environmental checklist and conducted a SEPA review on the proposal consistent with the requirements of RCW 43.21C, WAC 197-11, and OCC 14.04 and after review of the comments received issued

a final mitigated determination of non-significance which was published in the official county newspaper on January 30 and 31, 2019, and

Whereas: The Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance include requirements for signage with the installation of signs to begin by April 1, 2019, and

Whereas: A public hearing was scheduled before the Okanogan Board of County Commissioners on February 25, 2019. A notice of public hearing was published in the official county newspaper on January 30 and 31, 2019, and

Whereas: The Okanogan Board of County Commissioners conducted the public hearing on February 25, 2019 and considered the materials presented and testimony received, and