



Media Release

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ALBERTA OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION (AOHVA) concerned that Albertans' continued enjoyment of province's open landscape is in jeopardy

The Government of Alberta is currently working to develop and implement a province-wide Land Use Framework, enacting the biggest change to land use in the province in 30 years. AOHVA believes that in 2017, Albertans will be facing a significant reduction or restrictions to their access and enjoyment of Alberta's outdoor spaces.

With increased pressure and expectations for recreational off-highway vehicle use on single and multi-use trails, AOHVA is actively advocating on behalf of off-highway vehicle recreation users to the provincial and local governments across Alberta to increase the number of recreation trails in the province and ensure continued access for both citizens and visitors.

Brent Hodgson, AOHVA President explains that "our organization supports the effective stewardship of Alberta's public land, including the need to manage access and use, as well as the protection of sensitive areas. Additionally, we are committed to working with our partners to educate the public about the need for responsible behavior in wilderness areas during off-highway recreational activities."

With regards to the GoA LAND USE FRAMEWORK: AOHVA encourages and supports the development of the Land Use Framework for the respectful enjoyment of the back country, understanding that it is there to protect the environment and wilderness FOR the people of Alberta and not to keep it FROM the people.

With regards to the GoA LAND FOOTPRINT MANAGEMENT PLAN: AOHVA supports and encourages an open, transparent and collaborative consultation process to develop the land footprint and biodiversity management framework. The concern of AOHVA is that the current linear target of 0.6 km² is not based on scientific evidence applicable to the Alberta Landscape. Rather, the only methodology used to date appears to be computer modeling based on unscientific variables or data.

For those who value Alberta's wide open spaces and the opportunity to enjoy them, AOHVA suggests that now is the time to join and lend support to a local OHV club and encourages all OHV riders to take action and be part of the solution.

About ALBERTA OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION (AOHVA)

AOHVA is a non-profit organization representing the interests of the estimated 165,000 off-highway vehicle recreation users; those being all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-road motorcycles (ORMs) and side by sides (UTVs) across Alberta. We are dedicated to providing safe motorized recreational activities in an environmentally responsible manner. Our efforts focus on education, safety, and the revitalisation and restoration of trails and facilities on both public and private land throughout Alberta.

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