

From: [Vera Washington](#)
To: [John J. Donahue](#); [Barry Sullivan](#); [Pete McCarthy](#); [Don Striker](#); [Brian O'Neill](#); [William K. Dickinson](#); [Woody Smeck](#); [Jim Milestone](#); [Scott Bentley](#); [Carol Clark](#); [George Price](#); [Mike Murray](#); [Russ Wilson](#); [Charlie Fenwick](#); [Sean McGuinness](#); [Jerry Eubanks](#); [Don Neubacher](#)
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Subject: GAO -Upcoming survey (Off-Highway Vehicle Use 360939)
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Subject: GAO Survey of Off-Highway Vehicle Use

At the request of the House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is reviewing federal agencies' management of off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on federal lands. Specifically, GAO has been asked to identify (1) trends in OHV use on federal lands over the past 5 fiscal years; (2) environmental and human health and safety impacts of OHV use on federal lands; (3) how agencies manage OHV use and enforce OHV regulations; and (4) challenges that land managers face in managing OHV use. The agencies included in GAO's review are the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service.

As part of its review, GAO will be conducting a survey of federal land managers, asking for their perspectives about OHV issues over the past 5 fiscal years and other related information. The recreation manager or other agency-designated official who is most experienced with OHV management issues at each BLM field office and Forest Service national forest and grassland, as well as selected National Park Service units will be requested to complete GAO's survey, which will be administered electronically using the Internet. National Park Service units designated as lakeshores, seashores, national recreation areas, preserves, parks, and monuments will be included in GAO's survey. We realize that some selected units may not have any OHV use. However, in order to obtain an accurate count of those units that have no OHV use, we request that the respondent identified at your unit still complete the applicable portion of survey indicating that there is no OHV use.

In October 2008, GAO will notify the survey recipients via email that the survey is available and how to access it; the email will have "GAO Survey of Off-Highway Vehicle Use" in the subject line. Survey recipients will be able to complete the questionnaire from any computer that has access to the Internet, and **should contact other officials within their management unit, such as law enforcement officers, to gather all the needed information.** If you have questions, please contact the following GAO staff: Matt Reinhart (202-512-6038;), Janice Poling (202-512-3230;), or Emily Eischen (202-512-3757;).

Due to the importance of providing the Congress with accurate and representative responses from our agency on this significant issue, I am encouraging your 100-percent participation in completing GAO's survey. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Vera Washington
NPS OIG/GAO Audit Liaison
202/354-1960

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Fax (202) 371-6554