

Nebraska Off Highway Vehicle Association **NOHVA**

TBQ Sport Club, Incorporated

A Non-Profit Association For All Terrain Vehicle and Off Road Motorcycle Users - Established 1987

Business Office: 2231 West 10th Street, Grand Island, Nebraska 68803

Web site: www.nohva.com

Telephone: 308-381-2143

Email: danno@nohva.com

February 04, 2010

Dear NOHVA members and Friends of NOHVA,

WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you like to stay at camp sites at Halsey, ride your ATV or dirtbike from your camp site to the trails, and would like your opinion known about this, you need to read this letter! Forward this email if you like to a friend.

I am writing to you today about a proposed closure of the main camp ground and parking area (the Bessey Recreation Complex) at the Nebraska National Forest, Bessey Ranger District. The Nebraska National Forest, Bessey Ranger District is commonly known to most people simply as "Halsey".

Terry Baker, the Acting District Ranger of the Bessey Ranger District disclosed this proposal to me in a letter containing information about an order that would close the main camping area. Below is the letter that I received:

I am writing to inform you of a proposed special order closure to the Bessey Recreation Complex to ATV use. The following concerns have been brought to my attention by my staff and members of the public (via my staff):

--- Use of the living areas as parking lots for ATVs (meaning, camp sites and picnic areas that are normally closed to ATVs.

--- Riding ATVs from campsite to campsite, the showers, and the river access after being informed those were not permitted practices.

--- Running of ATVs during quiet hours of the campground.

--- Off-loading on the grass in the day use area.

--- Driving at excessive speeds on Cedar Loop as a racing oval.

--- Producing trenches by spinning circles in and around the campsites.

--- Removing parking barriers to park ATVs in campsites.

--- Parking on the use area of the group campground.

With the safety and resource damage concerns mentioned above, it will be in my best interest to close the campground to ATV use. Prior to doing so, we will designate loading and off-loading areas. I look forward to your comments on this proposal.

*Terry Baker
Acting District Ranger
Bessey Ranger District*

If this proposal is adopted, it will mean that ATV and dirtbike riders will no longer be able to ride directly from their camp site to the trails. People will not be able to have ATVs and dirtbikes "on the ground" in the camp sites. This does not mean that any trails will be closed, except those addressed under the upcoming

Travel Management Plan.

For now, this proposal only targets the Bessey Recreation Complex, or the main camp ground. If the proposal is adopted, we are concerned that the same ban may occur on ATVs and dirtbikes at the Whitetail Campground as well.

Acting Ranger Baker is asking for your comment on this PROPOSAL. As of this writing, nothing has been decided and he is asking us what we think about the proposal, and is asking if we have any suggestions to help solve the issue.

If you are concerned about this proposal and wish to voice your opinion, you should write or call the Forest Service and voice your suggestions, support or opposition.

BE SURE TO WRITE OR CALL IN A CIVIL AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER.

If you wish to state your views, you need to call or write:

Terry Baker
Acting District Ranger
Bessey Ranger District
State Spur 86B
P.O. Box 39
Halsey, NE 69142-0039
Telephone: 308-533-2257
Email: Terry T Baker terrybaker@fs.fed.us

Thank you for your help with this issue. If you have any questions, please send me an email or call. If you call and there is no answer, please leave a message and I will return your call.

Dan Nitzel, President and Business Manager
Nebraska Off Highway Vehicle Association
2231 W. 10th Street
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-381-2143