

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 CONCURRENT  
3 RESOLUTION NO. 42

By: Corn and Rabon of the  
Senate

and

Brannon of the House

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8 A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the limited  
9 public consideration for the regulation of all-  
10 terrain vehicles on forest lands; requesting  
11 Congressional action to intervene; and directing  
12 distribution.

13 WHEREAS, the Ouachita National Forest is a federally recognized  
14 forest located within the State of Oklahoma and is subject to the  
15 rules and regulations of the Forest Service of the United States  
16 Department of Agriculture, along with all other federally recognized  
17 forests; and

18 WHEREAS, the Forest Service has adopted regulations that will  
19 change the policy regarding travel management of all-terrain  
20 vehicles on National Forest System lands; and

21 WHEREAS, the new policy will strictly limit the all-terrain  
22 vehicle use to the 40 miles of designated trails in the Ouachita  
23 National Forest; and

24 WHEREAS, consideration for the proposed regulations on the all-  
terrain vehicle use was opened for online public comment in July

1 2004 for a period of 60 days. Upon completion of the 60-day  
2 requirement, the regulations were approved by the Forest Service and  
3 are scheduled to take effect for all forest lands in September 2008;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the regulations developed by the Forest Service as part  
6 of the Travel Management Plan do not take into account the needs of  
7 the taxpaying handicapped citizens, even after pleas for  
8 consideration were made for those citizens to have access; and

9 WHEREAS, the regulations also reflect a total disregard for the  
10 state hunting seasons and restrict the ability for path usage in  
11 retrieving game of the hunters; and

12 WHEREAS, the existing trails and roads open for access in the  
13 Ouachita National Forest are inadequate to curb the increasing  
14 pressure on the use of public land by those participating in  
15 seasonal hunting that are otherwise limited to land access by the  
16 increasing practice of leasing land; and

17 WHEREAS, the preference of the citizens is to maintain the  
18 current use and access that is currently enjoyed. If the Forest  
19 Service remains concerned about maintenance of trails and possible  
20 environmental issues, the citizens are supportive of permit fee  
21 proposals.

22 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION  
23 OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
24 CONCURRING THEREIN:

1        THAT the United States Congress make every effort to intervene  
2 in the procedures to implement and enforce the new regulatory policy  
3 of the Forest Service regarding all-terrain vehicle use scheduled to  
4 take effect in September 2008 by postponing the date on which the  
5 regulations are to take effect.

6        THAT in postponing regulatory implementation, a directive be  
7 submitted to the Forest Service of the United States Department of  
8 Agriculture that consideration of a regulatory policy for travel  
9 management on National Forest System lands be revisited and that  
10 additional consideration be afforded to the taxpaying citizens who  
11 actually utilize the public land and utilize it in conjunction and  
12 in conformance with the hunting seasons established by this state.

13        THAT the Forest Service in finalizing a new regulatory policy  
14 also incorporate, at the very least, more generous usage for the  
15 disabled, veterans, and licensed hunters for all forest lands and  
16 that the Forest Service strongly consider a policy of existing use  
17 and access that incorporates a permit fee procedure.

18        THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President  
19 Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
20 States House of Representatives, and the Oklahoma Congressional  
21 Delegation.

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