

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 42

By: Corn and Rabon of the
Senate

and

Brannon, Adkins, Armes,
Auffet, Banz, Benge,
BigHorse, Billy, Blackwell,
Braddock, Brown, Cannaday,
Carey, Cargill, Collins,
Coody, Cooksey, Covey, Cox,
Dank, Denney, Derby,
DeWitt, Dorman, Duncan,
Ellis, Enns, Faught,
Gilbert, Glenn, Hamilton,
Harrison, Hickman,
Hilliard, Hoskin, Hyman,
Ingmire, Inman, Jackson,
Jett, Johnson (Dennis),
Johnson (Rob), Jones,
Jordan, Joyner, Kern, Key,
Kiesel, Lamons, Liebmann,
Lindley, Luttrell, Martin
(Scott), Martin (Steve),
McAffrey, McCarter,
McCullough, McDaniel
(Jeannie), McDaniel
(Randy), McMullen, McNiel,
McPeak, Miller, Morgan,
Morrissette, Murphey,
Nations, Peters, Peterson
(Pam), Peterson (Ron),
Piatt, Pittman, Proctor,
Pruett, Renegar, Reynolds,
Richardson, Roan,
Rousselot, Schwartz, Sears,
Shannon, Shelton, Sherrer,
Shoemake, Shumate,
Smithson, Steele, Sullivan,
Terrill, Thompson, Thomsen,

Tibbs, Trebilcock, Turner,
Walker, Watson, Wesselhoft,
Winchester, Worthen and
Wright of the House

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, consideration for the proposed regulations on the all-terrain vehicle use was opened for online public comment in July 2004 for a period of 60 days. Upon completion of the 60-day requirement, the regulations were approved by the Forest Service and are scheduled to take effect for all forest lands in September 2008; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the Senate the 22nd day of April, 2008.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 14th day of May, 2008.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives