

2022 Legislative Policy Proposal Form
17th Annual CSA Legislative Summit
September 29, 2021 – October 1, 2021
Yavapai, Arizona

Proposal Form Overview: *The proposal form provides county supervisors and professional staff an opportunity to propose legislative solutions to improve efficient, responsive delivery of county government services. Prior to submitting the proposal, please seek approval by the majority of the county board of supervisors.*

Submitting County:

Yavapai County

Background: *Describe the problem or issue you are trying to address.*

Unregulated use of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV's) is creating substantial environmental problems in rural counties. OHV's generate unmanaged recreation, natural resource damage (such as excessive amounts of dust and noise, OHV's disturbance of the natural environment of the landscape, destroy native vegetation, and degrade and destroy fish and wildlife habitat), rangeland (for example small county-wide cattle ranchers) impacts, waste dumping, dangerous individuals. Most forest roads in the area were constructed for rangeland, hunting and forest exploration. These native surface roads were constructed for a low level of use. Residents and recreators alike are concerned about maintenance, increased use levels, roadside vegetation mortality, speed, reckless driving; especially related to off-highway vehicles OHV's which has grown exponentially across Yavapai County. Presently there is no forest service permit required for either customers or OHV rental businesses. The Forest does not currently have any limitations on the number of OHV's that can operate except in the Sedona Soldier Pass area and often does not have posted speed limits on the Forest Roads. The state regulates the use of motor vehicles and OHV's on open roads, including forest roads. In addition, the Red Rock Ranger District does not currently have OHV patrol and maintenance staff.

Recommended Solution: *How does the legislative proposal solve the problem or issue? Please include any existing statutes that will be affected by the proposed changes.*

Add provisions to ARS titles 28 and/or 49 to allow rural counties to designate OHV sensitive use areas, and to reasonably limit the use of OHV's in those areas through the issuance of permits, and reasonable restrictions on the number, times, and methods of OHV use.

Other Potential Remedies: *Describe any administrative remedies available to solve the problem.*

At this time rural counties have limited capacity to regulate OHV use.

Fiscal Impact: Describe any potential positive or negative fiscal impacts of the legislative solution to the state or county budgets.

Unlikely to impact state budgets. Some minor county budget impacts for rural counties that choose to implement OHV regulations.

Stakeholders: Please provide a list of affected stakeholders who may support or oppose the proposed legislative solution and the reason for their position.

Possibly Support –

- Public Lands Council
- Small Cattle Ranchers
- Arizona Cattleman’s Association
- County-wide Equestrian Organizations
- County-wide Hiking Associations/Clubs
- Many Trail Bike Users

National, State, and local environmental advocacy groups (Sierra Club, etc.)

Local residents affected by OHV noise, dust

AZ Dept. of Game and Fish

AZ Dept of Environmental Quality

US Forest Service

US Bureau of Land Management

US National Park Service

OHV rental businesses

Possibly Oppose –

- AZ Dept of Environmental Quality
- US Forest Service
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US National Park Service
- OHV manufacturers
- OHV rental businesses
- OHV users
- Local businesses dependent on sales from OHV users

Primary Contact: Please provide a primary for the proposal (name, phone, email).

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