

**Subject:** [Fwd: Fw: New BC Mudboggging Law doesn't go far enough]  
**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>  
**Date:** Tue, 07 Aug 2007 12:51:36 -0700  
**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject:** Fw: New BC Mudboggging Law doesn't go far enough  
**From:** Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>  
**Date:** Tue, 07 Aug 2007 12:37:34 -0700  
**To:** fonvca@fonvca.org

----- Original Message -----

**Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2007 11:07 AM

*What about the free-riding mountain bikers who "mudbog" (ride trails and/or trail build during the rain and inclement weather?*

***"White water mountain biking" (<http://bb.nsmc.com/showthread.php?t=93612>) is a form of reckless mudboggging on our North Shore alpine forest trails.***

--Monica Craver--

### **NEW LAW IN FORCE TO PREVENT ECOSYSTEM DAMAGE**

VICTORIA – **Effective immediately**, people who cause environmental damage to public forest and range lands through recreational activities such as mudboggging will be subject to financial penalties and prosecution, Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

“I hope this new legislation will stop people from harming the environment by mudboggging or recklessly driving ATVs through sensitive alpine terrain and range lands,” said Coleman. “We want to encourage the public to act responsibly on Crown land when they go out and enjoy the great outdoors.”

**On May 31, the Forests and Range Statutes Amendment Act received royal assent. The act introduced a provision that makes it illegal for individuals to cause environmental damage.** Previously, only industrial users of Crown land were subject to these prohibitions. **Regulations deposited this week bring the law into effect, and update the definition of environmental damage to include any change to soil that adversely alters an ecosystem.**

Under the new provision, individuals found to have caused environmental damage may face penalties of up to \$100,000. Criminal convictions carry maximum fines of \$100,000, up to one year in jail, or both.

*(??“As a long-time proponent of off-road vehicle management, I strongly support any steps toward*

*increased protection of B.C.'s grasslands, alpine and riparian areas," said East Kootenay MLA and BC Outdoor Caucus Chair Bill Bennett. "Our public land in B.C. is an incredible resource, and although I support motorized recreation and enjoy it myself, we must balance motorized recreation with other values. There is room for everyone out there if we use common sense."??)*

**Irresponsible use of off-road vehicles in ecosystems can easily damage soil, the ecological foundation of natural areas. For example, repeatedly driving or driving at certain times of the year in wetlands can change the structure of the soil, making it difficult for plants to take root and grow because of a lack of air or nutrients. In addition, off-roading in wetlands kills birds and amphibians. Generations of wildlife can be impacted due to a lack of plant life and clean water.**

**In fragile alpine areas and dry grasslands, off-roading can quickly erode the thin soil layer so that plant life can no longer be sustained.**

An information brochure, titled "Is your mud worth \$100,000 and a year in jail?" is available online at: [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hen/reports/index.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hen/reports/index.htm). For photos illustrating damage to ecosystems caused by off-road vehicles, please see [www.for.gov.bc.ca/pab/media](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pab/media).

(My Notes: The brochure describes -- )

**Whenever you drive (ride) off-road, you are disrupting the ecological foundation of our natural areas -- the soil. In sensitive sites, the damage can be catastrophic.**

? ***In wetlands, repeated driving (riding and trail building) or driving (riding and trail building) at certain times of the year can cause irreparable changes to wetland functions. Off-roading can change the very structure of the soil, making it difficult for plants to take root and grow because of a lack of air or nutrients.***

? ***Off-roading in wetlands kills birds and amphibians. Damaged wetlands may impact many generations of wildlife due to the lack of plant life and clean water.***

? ***Using ATVs, motorbikes (mountain bikes) and trucks in the alpine destroys plant cover and causes erosion. The alpine has a very shallow layer of growing soil that takes decades to rebuild.***

? ***Noxious weeds and invasive plants take root in disturbed soil, displacing native plants and reducing food sources for wildlife and cattle.***

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The public is encouraged to use public forest and range lands responsibly. Report any suspected forestry contraventions or crimes to a local Ministry of Forests and Range office, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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Media

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