Assisting Land Managers in the Planning, Design, and Management of OHV Recreation

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Outline

• Off-highway vehicle recreation background

• Social science methods and results

• Spatial analysis and results

• Putting it all together: conceptual plan
Off-Highway Vehicles

- ATVs
- OHMs
Trends in OHV Recreation

• National: More than 51 million riders

• Florida: 5th highest in recreational riders
Unmanaged OHV Trails

http://www.publicland.ca/issues/scarsacrossthelandscape.html

www.npca.org/.../ten_most_endangered/atv2.jpg

img.citypages.com/.../26_1287a13554_mv1.jpg
New OHV Law in Florida

- T. Mark Schmidt Off-Highway Vehicle Safety and Recreation Act

- OHVs require proper management
The St. Mary’s Shoals Park
The Project: 2 Parts

- Survey Florida OHV riders
- Spatial analysis of SMSP
Study Areas

St. Mary's Shoals Park in Baker County

Ocala National Forest Survey Sites
Survey Results

- Demographics and group characteristics:
  - 86% men
  - Mostly white, educated, middle class
  - Large groups
  - Few children under 18
  - Other recreation activities
Survey Results

• Willingness to pay fees and management preferences:
  • Willing to pay to ride
  • Destination trails
  • Organized, well-marked trails
  • Trail-side facilities unimportant
Survey Results

• Desired experiences, a.k.a. motivations:
  • Spend time with friends and family
  • Use equipment
  • Experience open space
  • Experience nature
  • Get away from the demands of life
Spatial Analysis of SMSP
Conceptual Design and Management Recommendations
Nature-Based OHV Recreation: Extension Guidebook

- Maps
- Potential grants
- Contacts for rider groups
- Suggestions for management
- Spatial analysis tips
- Facilities and trail development
Thank You