

## *THE WOODS*

*Renewable Resources and Resources For Renewal*

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Sky Meadows Board and Sky Riders Snowmobile Club  
Friends and Neighbors,

This summer and last have seen increasing incidents of Off Road Vehicle (ORV) trespass on our property where violators have identified themselves as being "Sky Meadows residents" while refusing to give names or lot numbers. Even when dirt bikers have admitted to coming under the locked gate on the northern border of the Streifel property the excuse that is given sounds something like, "Well we ride our snowmobiles through here in the winter." This "confusion" is causing us to reevaluate the wisdom of granting winter snowmobile access over the end of Sawmill Road.

We understand that ORV access to the ridge lands and Green Dot trails has become severely curtailed with the closure of private forest lands to the west and south and the uncertain status of ORV traffic out Eastgate. Nevertheless, we are prevented by our covenants of ownership as well as our forest management plans from allowing any recreational ORV traffic on our drives and service roads. **We urgently request the Board, Sky Riders and all Sky Meadows residents to help us stop ORV trespass. Your future winter access to the west depends on it!**

Perhaps the following steps might be taken:

1. Signage: A "Dead End- No Through Traffic" sign might be placed at the intersection of Sawmill and Two Springs roads. The Skyriders' "Stay on the Trail" sign beyond the gate at the end of Sawmill Road might be overlaid with a summer edition reading "Private Drives, No Through Access, Keep Out" or the like.
2. Information: Beyond notices in minutes, perhaps the Board could create a flyer that could be given to residents and guests clarifying ORV policy within Sky Meadows and indicating that ORV access to the west (Sawmill, Grange Springs, Aspen Springs and Fawn Roads) and south (Microwave Road) is closed.
3. General Clarification: Negotiation might be taken with DNR regarding Green Dot access out Eastgate. Perhaps a more difficult task involves clarifying a general ORV policy for the public/private Sky Meadows interior roads. Legal and liability issues abound here.
4. Sawmill Road Turnaround: We request the Boards permission to use the 60' Sky Meadows right-of-way to construct a turn around at the end of Sawmill Road. This would entail the removal of a 22" Douglas Fir currently in the right-of-way. A turnaround would indicate the end of Sawmill Road and the beginning of private drives beyond the gate.

During the summer months construction and guest access may require the gate at the end of Sawmill Road to remain open at times. Sky Meadows residents and guests should be advised that an open gate does not mean public access. We plan to begin photographing ORV trespassers for identification and prosecution. Hikers continue to be welcome.

We've worked together to make the winter access work for 16 years now. We hope this can continue. Thank you for your cooperation.

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