

1 YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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3 \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Number \_\_\_\_\_

Legislative Action:

4 H. Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

House: \_\_\_\_\_

5 S. Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

6 Governor: \_\_\_\_\_

7 Introduced By: Jamie Ritter

8 Authored By: Jamie Ritter

9 Delegation: Butte High School

10 Referred to Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

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12 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "An act to reopen the forests of Montana to all motorized  
13 vehicles."

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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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17 **23-1-128. Protection of riparian vegetation -- limit on motorized camping, operation of off-highway  
18 vehicles.** In order to protect riparian vegetation, provide for stable streambanks, reduce erosion, and  
19 provide for nutrient barriers to protect the quality of rivers and streams:

20 (1) camping in a motor vehicle, as defined in 61-1-101, is discouraged within 25 feet of a river or  
21 stream in state parks and fishing access sites; and

22 (2) the off-road operation of an off-highway vehicle, as defined in 23-2-801, within state parks and  
23 fishing access sites is prohibited except for administrative purposes.

24 **23-2-801.**

25 **Definition.** (1) As used in this part, "off-highway vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle used for  
26 recreation or cross-country travel on public lands, trails, easements, lakes, rivers, or streams. The term  
27 includes but is not limited to motorcycles, quadricycles, dune buggies, amphibious vehicles, air cushion  
28 vehicles, and any other means of land transportation deriving motive power from any source other than  
29 muscle or wind.

30 (2) Off-highway vehicle does not include:

31 (a) vehicles designed primarily for travel on, over, or in the water;

32 (b) snowmobiles; or

33 (c) except as provided in 23-2-804, vehicles otherwise issued a certificate of title and registered under  
34 the laws of the state, unless the vehicle is used for off-road recreation on public lands.

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36 **Section 1. Intent:** This bill will open Montana State forest land to motorized vehicles to go  
37 wherever they like within Montana State forest boundaries.

38 **Section 2.** There would be no tickets given for being on what used to be closed trails or  
39 forestland.

40 **Section 3.** All dirt bike and 4-wheeler owners would still be required to have off road stickers on  
41 their dirt bikes or 4-wheelers if they intend to ride them off road.

42 **Section 4. Funding:** This bill shall require no funding.

43 **Section 5. Effective Date:** If passed this bill will be effective as of the beginning of spring 2010.

44 -end-