

## **SF #1324**

### **Rationale for designated OHV routes on unpaved trails/routes to avoid known areas of invasive species**

SF #1324 puts into statute the requirement that designated routes on unpaved roads must avoid known areas of noxious weeds. Increased vehicular traffic, both on and off road, presents a unique conservation challenge in terms of preventing and managing the spread of non-native invasive species that threaten wildlife food sources, habitat and overall ecological health. Invasive species can and do destabilize entire ecosystems.

Strategic planning for designated routes on unpaved roads to circumvent known hotspot areas of noxious weeds is critical to help manage this growing problem to protect biological diversity.

Off road vehicles with aggressive tires are effective carriers of seeds that can remain imbedded in tire treads for long distances, depositing them hundreds of miles away. Unlike regular passenger cars, off road vehicles can and do go off road, where they can collect many more seeds in undercarriages and tire treads. Off road vehicles are capable of traveling off road and shedding invasive seeds deep into our forests.

Preventing invasive establishment is the most cost effective and efficient method of controlling invasives. Once established, invasives can only be managed, they are extremely difficult to eradicate.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479717310575>

Hitching a ride: seed accrual rates on different vehicles

<https://queticosuperior.org/blog/invasive-plant-species-encroach-on-canoe-country/>