

5 minutes

My name is Barrett Brown, from North Plains, Oregon. I own a small engineering and manufacturing company building specialty earthmoving equipment, outside of North Plains. It's a privilege to be able to come and share my thoughts in support of what OPRD has done in the past, comment about their budget request going forward, and talk a little about the Oregon's ATV fund.

I'd like to start with a bit about the ATV fund itself. In the late 80s, early 90s I helped craft the law that created Oregon's ATV fund. That initiative grew from the desire, within the OHV community, to take an active role in earning our place on the land; to tax ourselves, in order to responsibly manage our recreation resources such as trails and other facilities and pay for the education and enforcement needed to set a sustainable course for the sport we love. We've built that fund from moneys we collect from Off-Highway Vehicle users via a sticker/registration program that is required for access to all public OHV trails in Oregon, and from a refund, through ODOT of the State highway fuel taxes collected at the pump to fuel those Off Highway Vehicles, such as dirt bikes, quads, jeeps, etc. Over the years that law has evolved and been improved. For example, at the start, ODOT was "hired" by the community to operate this program, because it seemed logical; they were involved in collecting the fuel taxes, they had expertise in registration, etc. But as the program grew to focus more on trails and facilities and recreation user satisfaction it became clear that ODOT was stretched beyond what they do best, so with their support the law was changed, and we, basically, hired OPRD as the new stewards of what is, at heart, this trust fund. I go into this detail, because unlike other State sponsored programs from BOLI, to DHS, to our actual State Parks themselves, the Oregon ATV fund is not supported by Oregonians tax or lottery dollars. This is not widely understood or appreciated across State Government. This fund is entirely made up of money that we, the Off-Highway Vehicle recreation community, endeavor to collect from ourselves, for the preservation and sustainable development of the sport we love, and for which we have chosen OPRD as our professional staff. Parks has been a good partner in our joint missions to date, from educating and training our young people and their parents, thus saving lives; to becoming more and more active on the ground to meet our community's vastly more responsible sustainability mandate. I'm confident they'll be just as helpful, going forward, as we try to improve some of the structural flaws in our fund, which threaten undermine our ability to do this good work. Oregon's OHV community looks forward to working with many of you, as well to solve these challenges, to prevent the direct appropriation of these funds into other areas of Government.

Thank you for your attention today and for taking on the honorable roll you fill in the Oregon Legislature. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have, and invite you to reach out to the Oregon Motorcycle Rider's Association on any other Off-Highway Vehicle issues that cross your desk.

Barrett Brown
503-647-6499
PO Box 1280