

# OHV Noise Monitoring/Enforcement

## Stanislaus National Forest

ROG 16-84; 06/12



This is a brief introduction to the Stanislaus National Forest Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Sound Monitoring & Testing Program. It is intended to provide OHV users information about some very basic information and reasons for noise testing of their equipment.

### Legislative History

The State of California has enacted legislation limiting the amount of sound produced by any OHV (or ATV) operating on any public lands. The maximum limit was set at 101-dBA (decibels measured in the "A" scale) as measured utilizing the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) standard, "J-1287". This testing procedure is more commonly referred to as a "20 inch sound test". (Per California Vehicle Code section 38370(g): Any OHV manufactured prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1975 is allowed a maximum sound limit of 105-dBA.)



The noise output of an OHV/ATV is measured by a highly accurate hand-held sound meter held 20 inches from the end of the exhaust system of an engine running at half the maximum RPM (manufacturer listed). The RPM data for each particular OHV is obtained from a publication put out by the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC).

Generally, an increase or decrease of just three decibels produces twice as much/less sound (even though the human ear cannot audibly discern the difference).



As an example, an OHV testing at 104-dBA operates twice as loudly as an OHV testing at 101-dBA. (Future changes in the law may further lower the current limit.) Noise levels may be checked by Forest officials at any time during your riding experience on the Stanislaus. The check will take a few moments and the results will be discernable immediately.

In light of the mandate for increased emphasis on enforcement in this area, OHV/ATV enthusiasts can expect to be asked to submit to testing at random times/locations or as a prerequisite to participation in OHV events being conducted on Public lands under a Special Use Permit. An average noise test should take between 3 to 5 minutes to complete. Your cooperation and patience is greatly appreciated.

Noise enforcement and monitoring is one of the highest priorities of the State OHV Commission and a critical element for evaluation in determining the continuance or discontinuance of "Operations & Maintenance" and "Enforcement" type grant applications for all state-funded OHV riding areas.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.