

## Appendix C

### Alternative Trail Reroute Locations Suggested by the Public

Several factors were taken into consideration while assessing potential trail relocation routes. The primary objective was to direct ATV traffic away from the rattlesnake den. Considering the amount of existing road corridors which are located in this area of the Allegheny National Forest, the rationale for selecting the route which was proposed in scoping was partly based on utilizing existing road corridors where feasible. By utilizing existing road networks, both ground disturbance and construction costs are minimized. Implementation of the proposed trail construction in a minimal amount of time was another consideration taken into account as trail construction on an existing corridor is not as time-consuming as building new trail on relatively undisturbed ground, including pipelines. Additional factors taken into account were based on unique wildlife habitats, hydrology concerns, the presence/absence of unique woody and herbaceous vegetation, eliminating potential unauthorized access and illegal riding, and the presence/absence of potential rattlesnake habitat. In areas where existing road corridors were absent, Forest Service personnel collaborated in order to identify areas which would be feasible for trail construction while considering potential impacts to existing land features and wildlife habitats and ATV rider satisfaction and safety.

To summarize, the rationale of selecting the proposed trail relocation was based on obtaining authorization in a relatively short amount of time to protect rattlesnakes at this den site by directing ATV traffic to travel a suitable distance away from the den while minimizing impacts to the adjacent area, maintaining approximately the same amount of trail miles, and maintaining rider safety.

*The following letters correspond to the letters displayed on the attached Appendix C map. The name of the person, organization, or agency who submitted the potential trail location is in parentheses. Forest Service personnel had looked at several locations for trail relocation before the reroute proposed in the scoping letter was sent out to the public. These locations are also shown on the map and the Forest Service rationale for not considering these routes as part of the proposed relocation is documented below.*

- A. (Mauk) This is not an existing travel corridor. Trail placement at this location would require new construction.
- B. (Mauk) This is not an existing corridor. Trail placement at this location would require new construction. Proximity to FR339 would have invited illegal use on that road, and the non-system/FR339 intersection is on a blind curve. This area was surveyed in July, 2006 and was found to be rocky and wet and would have included a pipeline crossing, a stream crossing, and another crossing across FR339 in addition to the one located near the gravel pit. In addition, this route would bisect a conifer stand which is potentially utilized by wildlife as thermal cover.
- C. (Mauk) This is an existing corridor surveyed on July 31, 2006 and a juvenile rattlesnake was observed on a boulder (potential den site or

rookery). If the trail was located here, this potential den site or rookery would have been land-locked by FR339 and trails to the west and north. The existing corridor is wet and adjacent to large boulders. This location would have also necessitated an additional trail crossing/intersection on FR339 which results in increased safety risks to both ATV riders and the public.

- D. (ADP) – “FR339 to FR136.” These are not dual-use roads, there are safety concerns with ATV traffic on roads open to the public, and FR339 is not wide enough to have an open ATV lane.
- E. (ADP) “Pipeline corridor to FR 136.” One of the factors considered was to relocate the trail on areas which would not likely increase unauthorized access and illegal riding, thus eliminating most pipelines from potential reroutes. In addition, this route would direct ATV traffic onto FR339, thus increasing the risk to rider safety.
- F. (ADP) “FR129 east of project area.” This road was decommissioned in 1999. Also, it runs parallel with Bear Creek, and is also in an area with numerous documented rattlesnake sightings. This route would have directed ATV traffic near the adjacent and popular dispersed camping area along Bear Creek, thereby increasing noise disturbance to campers.
- G. (ADP) “FR 339 to non-system road in Warrant 3654 to FR 136.” The concerns with ATV traffic on FR339 and FR136 are noted in “D” above. The middle section of this route is located on the same existing road corridor which was proposed in the scoping letter. The western section of road proposed on this route is very wet and is vegetated with small spruce trees and herbaceous vegetation.
- H. (ADP) “Pipeline to FR 339 to non-system road in Warrant 3654 to FR 136.” Most of this route is the same as proposed in “G” above, The pipeline was looked at as part of the USFS field meeting with ADP on May 19, 2008. The pipeline is steep in sections, contains numerous wet areas, and parallels Red Lick Run for approximately 200 feet before crossing this stream and two other tributaries.
- I. (USFS) – This corridor is very steep, a pipeline is visible 1’-2’ above the ground, and it also bisects core conifer area which may be utilized as thermal cover by wildlife.
- J. (USFS) – This is a potential stream crossing which has been reviewed by USFS personnel. The bank is very steep on the western side of Red Lick Run and the eastern side contains a wetland (which would likely require a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection), and the construction of a bridge crossing.
- K. (USFS) – This section is located on an old railroad grade and is also adjacent to the wetland referred to in “J” above.
- L. (USFS) – This section is located on an old OGM road which is very wet at the bottom of the hill and the road itself is fairly steep.

- M. (USFS) – This section eliminated from consideration due to the lack of a suitable stream crossing in the area and because it contains numerous rocks and boulders and would have bisected two stands of conifer which may serve as thermal cover for wildlife.
- N. (ADP) – This section was reviewed by USFS and ADP on the May 19, 2008 field meeting. It consists of an abandoned well site, an old road corridor, and a pipeline. The well site contained wet soils. An approximately 20' wide seep separated the well site and the road corridor, and the pipeline contained small wet depressions in addition to the metal pipeline above the surface of the ground in sections, and other metal OGM equipment on the pipeline itself.