

I've said it many times before and I'll say it again. We (dirt bike riders) are our own worst enemy when it comes to keeping our trails open. We damage the trails (wrong bike, wrong tires, wrong gearing, go off the trail, short-cut the trail, ride trails beyond our skill level), we do stupid shit (cut doughnuts at the trailhead parking lot, ride county & USFS roads at 90 mph), are inconsiderate to other trail users (speed past them, scare them, their family, their dog or horse) and we think loud pipes are cool (NOT COOL) or that we need a loud pipe to get more horsepower when we don't have enough talent to ride a stocker.

We are all a bunch of goons at one time or another, me included. Don't get your undies in a bunch by my comments. OWN your actions! Man up, put your big boy pants on and become an ambassador for our sport. Why am I so hard on my fellow dirt bike riders? Many years ago I did my fair share of stupid shit on trails. Unknowingly at the time, I was a trail goon. I don't like to admit it but I believe in owning my actions, good or bad. My ways changed when a good friend, Big Doug, got in my face and chewed my ass for short-cutting a switchback. I'll never forget it and I'll never do it again. That was the beginning of my evolution of becoming a trail ambassador. Now I've turned in to Big Doug. I chew ass or do whatever it takes to preserve my right to ride. I talk to whoever will listen about trail issues, I organize trail clearing/maintenance rides, I stop guys on the trail that are being goons and explain correct trail etiquette, I donate tires and chain saws to guys that do trail clearing, I go to boring meetings and I donate and donate and donate my hard earned dollars to trail advocacy organizations and legal defense groups around the nation. Do I like giving away the equivalent of a new KTM every year? Not only no, but hell no, but I choose to be a 2 percenter to help keep our trails open. What is a 2 percenter? Less than 2 percent of the dirt bike community (including dealers, online retailers and manufacturers) ever do anything to help with our trails. Yes, 98% of us do nothing, absolutely nothing to keep our trails open. Am I patting myself on my back for being a 2 percenter? No! Am I proud to be a 2 percenter? No! Actually I'm embarrassed that less than 2% of us defend our trails when 100% of us moan, whine and bitch about trail closures.

We have many foes. The government, some (not all) USFS managers, tree huggers, companies like REI that donate to the tree huggers, etc. but, we are the biggest problem. Every day we give ammunition to the tree huggers. We are the enemy, period!

What can you do to help? Get involved! Work on the trails, go to meetings, join your local trail organizations, join national trail organizations, talk to other riders doing stupid things on the trail and donate to the organizations that do your dirty work while you are out riding. [Colorado Trails Preservation Alliance](#), [Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition](#), [American Motorcycle Association](#), [Blue Ribbon](#).