

# Background Information and Need for the New Rule

Over the past few decades, the availability and capability of OHVs has increased tremendously. More Americans are enjoying access and recreational opportunities on their national forests and grasslands, in keeping with the Forest Service's multiple use mandate. However, the increase in OHV use also affects soil, water, wildlife habitat, and other recreational visitors. Today unmanaged recreation, including impacts from off-highway vehicles, represents one of four key threats facing the nation's forests and grasslands.

On July 15, 2004, the Forest Service published proposed travel management regulations in the Federal Register. During the 60-day comment period, the agency received 81,563 responses representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and seven foreign countries. Most comments supported the broad concept of designating roads, trails, and areas for motor vehicle use. The final rule addresses these comments.

The new rule provides a national framework for local units to use in designating a sustainable system of roads, trails, and areas for motor vehicle use. The rule's goal is to secure a wide range of recreation opportunities while ensuring the best possible care of the land.

# Four Threats to the Health of the Nation's Forests and Grasslands

In the 21st century, the nation's forests and grasslands face four threats. Former Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth names them as:

- **Fire and Fuels**
- **Invasive Species**
- **Loss of Open Space**
- **Unmanaged Recreation**

*“We believe that off-highway vehicles are a legitimate use of the National Forest System. But it’s a use that should be managed carefully. That’s what our new rule for OHV use on national forest system lands is all about: providing access that can be used and enjoyed into the future. And if we want to sustain that use, then we’ve got to work together.”* Former Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth.

# Why is Travel Management Necessary?

## The Basics...

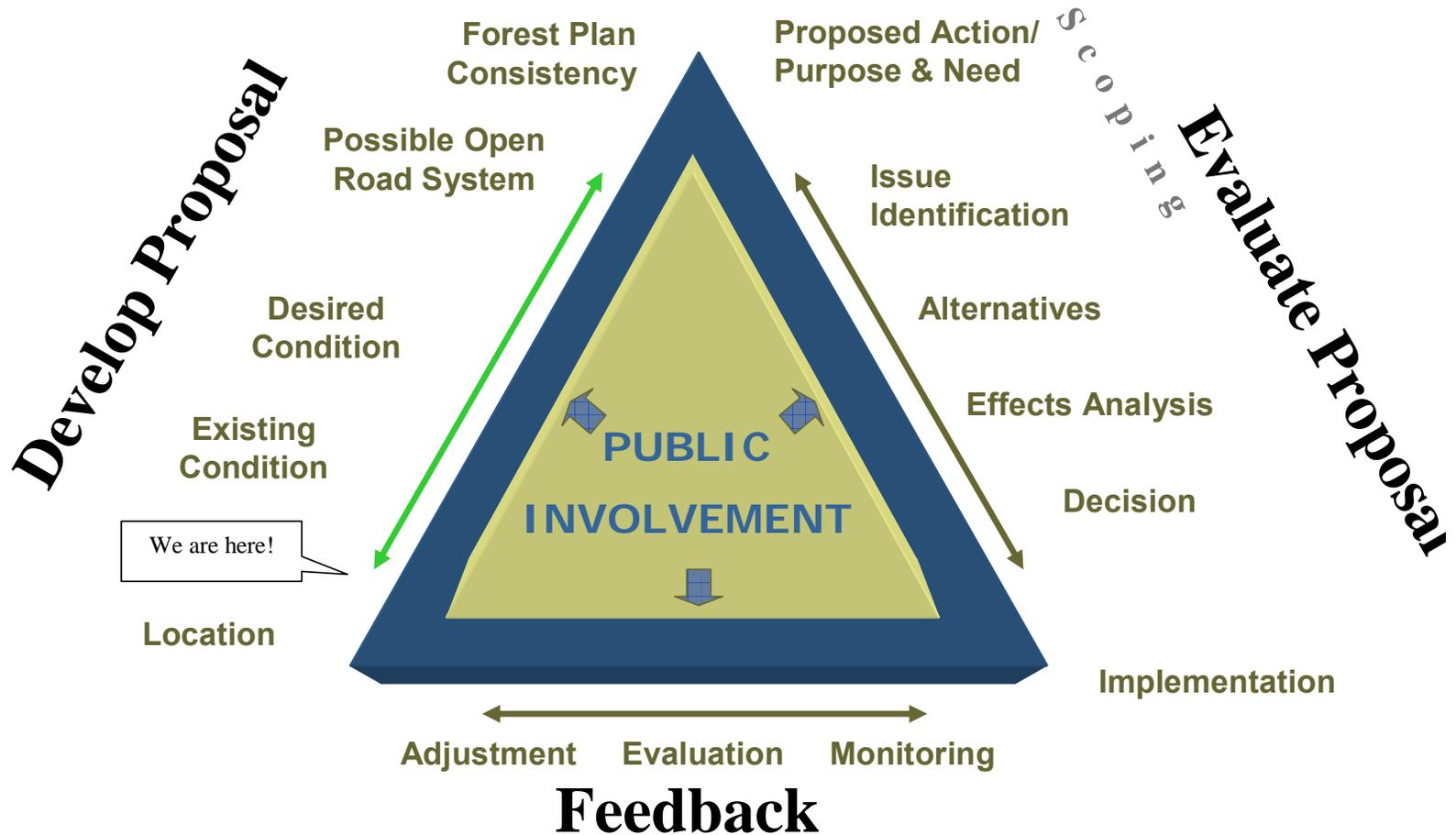
- **Off Highway Vehicle damage has created undesired resource conditions, for example:**
  - Impacts to fragile soils and vegetation
  - Damage to riparian areas and species
  - Recreation use conflicts and risks to public safety
  - Spread of invasive weeds
  - Damage to cultural or historical sites
  - Disturbance to wildlife and its habitat
- **Threatened & Endangered Species :** Disturbance to wildlife and its habitat is rising due to the increased road densities and the increase in motorized access.
- **Public Needs:** Unplanned creation of new roads and trails creates conflicts between users as well as administrative hardships for the managing agency.
- **Public Demand:** Nationally, Off Highway Vehicle use is increasing; therefore the demand for OHV area designation should continue to increase.

## The Travel Management Rule

- The Rule requires each national forest or ranger district to designate roads, trails, and area open to motor vehicle.
- Designation will include class of vehicle and, if appropriate, time of year for motor vehicle use.
- Designation decisions will be made locally, with public input and in coordination with state, local, and tribal governments.
- Once designation is complete, the rule will prohibit motor vehicle use off the designated system or inconsistent with the designations.

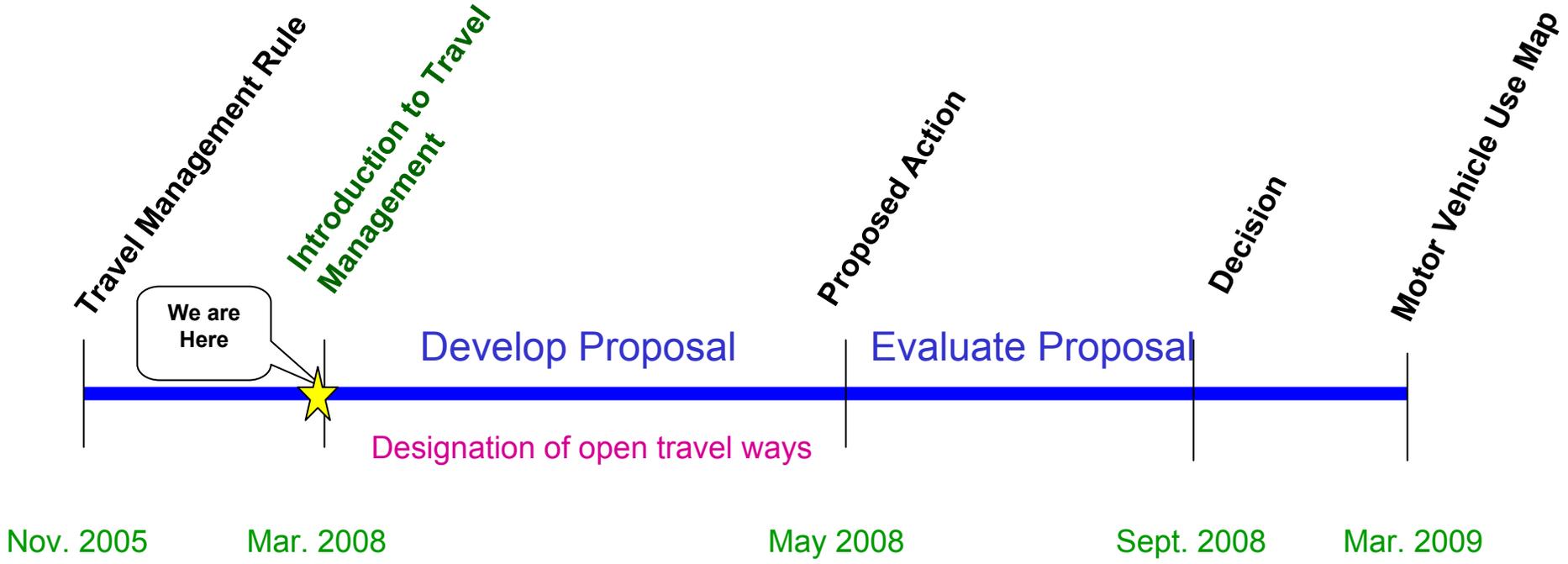
# What process will be used for Travel Management?

## Travel Management Planning Process



# When will the Travel Management Process Take Place?

Tentative Schedule



# Existing Condition



User Created  
Road



Undesired  
Erosion



unsafe  
conditions



User Created  
Trail



User Created  
Road

# Desired Condition

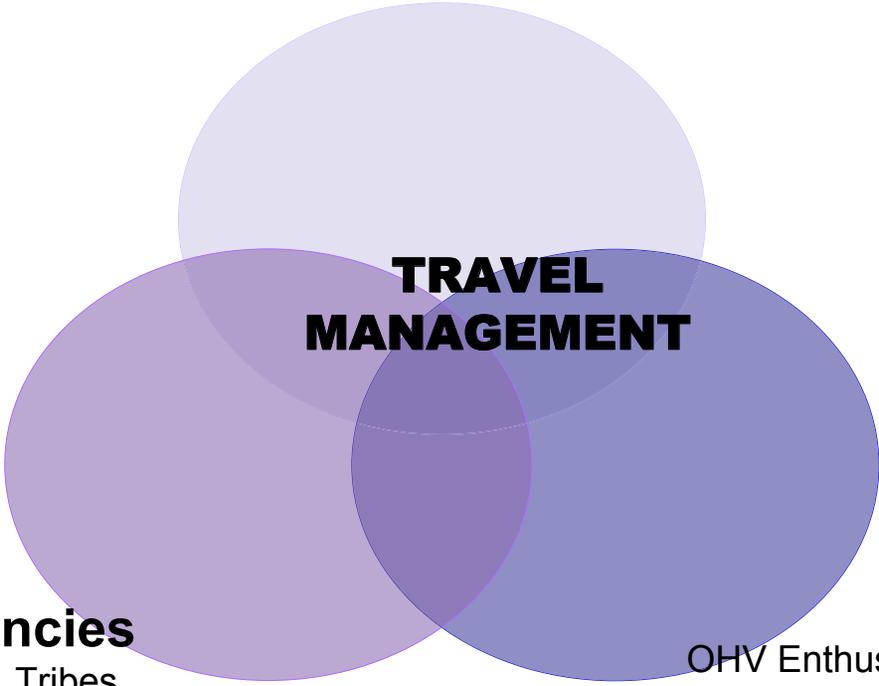
- Enhance opportunities on National Forest for outdoor recreation and ensures it remain sustainable over the long term.
- Development of solutions to sustain motor vehicle access and opportunities on both public and private lands.
- Improve protection of the environment.
- Increased public safety.



# Who will be involved in the Travel Management Process?

## US Forest Service

Decision makers, Resource Specialist, Engineers



**TRAVEL  
MANAGEMENT**

A Venn diagram consisting of three overlapping circles. The top circle is light purple and labeled 'US Forest Service'. The bottom-left circle is medium purple and labeled 'Cooperative Agencies'. The bottom-right circle is dark purple and labeled 'Public'. The central area where all three circles overlap is the darkest purple and contains the text 'TRAVEL MANAGEMENT'.

## Cooperative Agencies

State, local governments, Tribes

## Public

OHV Enthusiast, Hunters, Recreationists,  
Landowners, Forest Product users, etc..

# Your Role in Travel Management

## Public

- Become familiar with Travel Management road designation process.
- Assist lead agency with open road designation on National Forest System lands.

## Cooperative Agencies

- Provide consultation and input concerning resources that these agencies manage. Work with the public to incorporate the public's view pertaining to the management of those resources.

## US Forest Service

- Lead agency responsible for facilitating the open road system designation process. Provide analysis on proposed action and the effects on natural resources. Ensure Travel Management rule is applied.

# Questions?

## Additional information:

- Arnold Wilson, Mt. Taylor Ranger District, 1800 Lobo Canyon Road, Grants, NM 87020 Ph: 505-287-8833
- Web Site: [http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm\\_mt\\_taylor/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm_mt_taylor/index.shtml)
- E-Mail: [mt\\_taylor\\_travel@fs.fed.us](mailto:mt_taylor_travel@fs.fed.us)