

Attachment IV

Travel Management

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Travel Management?

A. The Travel Management Rule (TMR) is a federal regulation that all National Forests and Grasslands are required to implement. The TMR limits motorized use to designated roads, trails and areas. The intent of the rule is to protect natural resources while also providing for motorized recreational opportunities.

Q. When does the Travel Management Rule for the Gila go into effect?

A. The decision will be implemented upon publication of the motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Implementation is expected to begin July 1, 2016 for the Quemado, Reserve, Wilderness and Black Range ranger districts. TMR will not go into effect July 1 for the Glenwood and Silver City districts as they continue to work to complete resource surveys and obtain concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office before TMR will go into effect.

Q. What is the motor vehicle use map?

A. The MVUM is the legal document displaying the roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use on the Forest. The MVUM is free of charge and available at Gila National Forest offices.

Q. Why did it take so long to implement the decision after it was signed?

A. There have been many delays from the time the decision was signed until now. Delays were caused by changes in leadership, workforce capacity, completing resource surveys and obtaining concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office.

Q. Am I allowed to drive off-road to gather fuelwood?

A. Off-road travel within **designated** fuelwood areas remains the same. This means you can use your motorized vehicle to gather your fuelwood within **designated** cutting areas. You can continue to gather wood near roads.

Q. How far can I drive off-road to retrieve a big game animal?

A. The decision allows hunters to drive up to 300 feet from either side of roads designated with a corridor to retrieve their game.

Q. I am disabled and want to drive to my favorite place. Why can't I?

A. There is no legal requirement to allow persons with disabilities to drive to places closed to motorized use. The decision treats everyone the same, and therefore, is not considered discriminatory.

Q. Can I still car camp?

A. Yes. However, visitors may not travel cross-country in their motorized vehicles in order to camp.

Q. How far can I tent camp from my car?

A. The public can park, within a vehicle length or vehicle-plus-trailer length, along any of the roads open to motorized use, as well as county roads within the Forest, and can walk/hike any distance from the parked vehicle to set up camp.

Q. How does TMR affect dispersed camping?

A. When implemented across all districts of the forest, the decision has approximately 1,316 miles of designated motorized dispersed camping corridors and 36 areas. These corridors and the 36 areas capture the majority of locations where motorized dispersed camping currently occurs. You have the ability to

drive off the road 300 feet from either side of the road where motorized dispersed camping corridors are designated to establish a camp.

Q. Can employees use closed roads to access projects?

A. Justification for travel on closed roads by employees will be brought to the District Rangers. District Rangers will make the decision whether to allow the travel on a case by case basis.

Q. Can/will the travel management decision ever change?

A. We will be open to having discussions regarding adjustments to previous decisions when there is new information or opportunities to consider.

Q. Why did you close the road to my favorite camping spot?

A. The majority of the 908 miles of roads to be closed to motor vehicle use are less than one-mile in length, some had signs of little to no use; some had cultural or natural resource concerns; and some were duplicates of others or parallel to each other and ended near the same locations. The decision keeps open 3,334 miles of road, increases motorized trail opportunities from 16 to 179 miles and maintains a 3-acre area for motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle use on the Reserve Ranger District.