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**DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE BLACK HILL NATIONAL FOREST**

**THROUGH:** Jeff Tomac  
Forest Supervisor

Date: May 3, 2021

**FROM:** Ralph Adam   
Physical Resources Staff Officer

Date: April 30, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Direction, OHV width Measurement

**FILE CODE:** 2300; 5300; 7700

**ISSUE / RECOMMENDATION:**

In April 2021, the Forest Leadership Team adopted a clear and common method to determine OHV width. The goal is to provide clear language and a consistent approach for everyone to use.

**Method of OHV Width Measurement:** For Special Designated Trails 62 inches or less, the OHV measurement is taken from the outside of one tire to the outside of the opposite tire, measured using the widest tire tread width (front or rear).

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary:** The Black Hills National Forest has experienced an increase in the number of questions and comments related to the width measurement restrictions for OHV's operating on Special Designated Trails measuring 62 inches or less in width (South Dakota). The questions and comments focus on "how" the agency measures OHV width.

According to the Black Hills National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), the measurement is taken "... at the widest point on the vehicle." Although this statement provides direction, it has not provided sufficient clarity. Consequently, there remains confusion among trail users.



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Letter of Direction, OHV width Measurement

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**DECISION BY THE BLACK HILL NATIONAL FOREST:**

Approved:

*Jeff Turner*

Disapproved:

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Discuss with Me:

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Date:

*5-3-2021*