



File Code: 1950

Date: August 8, 2007

MADISON MOTOR VEHICLE USE MAP (MVUM)

Scoping Notice

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Madison Ranger District

Beaverhead & Madison Counties, Montana

Dear Interested Party:

The Madison Ranger District is seeking comments on proposed changes to summer motorized travel restrictions on the Madison Ranger District. These changes are described in detail below.

Comments may be submitted over the phone, in writing or electronically. Call Jonathan Klein in Ennis, Montana (406/682-4253) or Jan Bowey in Sheridan, Montana (406/842-5432). Please mail written comments to the Madison Ranger District, 5 Forest Service Road, Ennis, MT 59729 or submit electronic messages to: jbowey@fs.fed.us. Be sure to write "Madison MVUM" in the subject line of your email message (or written letter) so we know which project you're commenting on. If you choose to comment by email, please include your name and regular mailing address.

Comments received in response to this letter, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record and available for public inspection. Anonymous comments will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments may not have standing to appeal the decision under 36CFR 215.

To help us address your concerns in a timely manner, please submit comments by **September 10, 2007**. If you do not have comments at this time, but want to remain informed about the Madison Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) proposal, please contact us.

Project Background

The Madison Ranger District includes about 730,000 acres of National Forest System lands in the Gravelly, Greenhorn and Snowcrest Mountains, the west side of the Madison Mountains and roughly the southern 2/3 of the Tobacco Root Mountains. In 1984, the use of full-sized vehicles and jeeps was limited to designated routes (with the exception described in the next paragraph). For many roads, this decision included seasonal restrictions to protect specific resource concerns. Due to the increased popularity of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), the decision was updated in 1993 to designate routes and season of use of trails for ATVs and dirt bikes. These restrictions remain in effect and are delineated on the 1996 Southwest Montana Visitor/Travel Map.

In a 19,000-acre area of the Tobacco Root Mountains from Mill Creek southeast to the ridge separating Dulea and Granite Creeks (Area Closures 5 and 22 on the Travel Map), off road



vehicle travel is allowed on established routes in the Horse Creek area from May 16th to October 14th (Area Closure 5). In the rest of the area, off road vehicle travel is allowed on established routes June 2nd to October 14th (Area Closure 22). Primary access roads in both areas have previously been designated as open to motorized use yearlong or with seasonal restrictions (see the travel map). In this area of the Tobacco Root Mountains, off road vehicle use is physically limited by relatively dense timber and steep terrain. Generally, the “established” motorized routes are the result of historic mining activity and have existed for decades.

In 2005, the national Travel Management Rule required all National Forests to develop maps showing roads, trails and areas that are open to motorized travel during the summer. These maps are called “Motor Vehicles Use Maps” (MVUM). The 2005 Travel Management Rule requires that summer motorized travel be authorized on designated routes only. Travel management on the Madison Ranger District complies with the national rule with the exception of the 19,000-acre area in the Tobacco Root Mountains. In order for travel management in this portion of the Tobacco Root Mountains to comply with the 2005 Travel Management Rule, summer motorized travel must be authorized on designated, rather than established, routes.

Proposal

I propose designating about 15 miles of existing roads and 6 miles of trails as open to motorized use for the vehicle type and season displayed in Table 1 (attached) in the Tobacco Root Mountains from Mill Creek southeast to the ridge separating Dulea and Granite Creek. These mileage figures are in addition to the existing primary access roads currently designated as open in the area. Map 1 (attached) shows the general location of this area. A smaller scale, more detailed map is electronically available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/b-d/projects/>. Scroll down the page and click on “Madison MVUM”.

Because the MVUM will depict routes designated for summer motorized use on the entire Madison Ranger District, I find it timely to consider some minor motorized travel management changes elsewhere on the Madison District even though these areas comply with the 2005 Travel Management Rule. Specific routes and changes are displayed in Table 2 (attached) and delineated on Map 2 (attached). Again, a smaller scale, more detailed map is electronically available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/b-d/projects/>.

Please note that the above proposals do not address winter motorized travel. Changes to snowmobile use are currently being evaluated as part of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Plan Revision process and will not be considered in the analysis for the Madison MVUM.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jay A. Frederick (for)

MARK A. PETRONI
District Ranger

Enclosures (4)

TABLE 1
Proposed Routes Designated for
Summer Motorized Use
In Area 5 and 22 Closures

Map #¹	Description	Vehicle Type	Season
Road #7303	Mill Gulch Road extended to the west side of Downey Creek	All street legal vehicles	Open June 1 – March 31
Road #8301	From FS Boundary at Mill Gulch to end of road in Section 10	All street legal vehicles	Open June 1 – March 31
Road #8302	Spur Road for Mill Gulch road opposite the trailhead to cutting unit.	All street legal vehicles	Open June 1 – March 31
Road #7304	Monkey Gulch	All street legal vehicles	Open June 1 – Oct 15
Road #7304A	Connects Road #7302 to #7304	All street legal vehicles	Open June 1 – Oct 15
Road #7308	Kings Gulch	ATVs and dirt bikes	Open June 1 – Oct 15
Road #7309	Harris Creek Road	All street legal vehicles	Open Yearlong
Road #1217A	Small spur to Harris Cr. off California Cr. road just up from the FS bdy.	All street legal vehicles	Open Yearlong
Roads #1237A & #1237B	East of Copper Mountain	All street legal vehicles	Open Dec 1 – Oct 15
Road #8397	Paymaster Network	All street legal vehicles	Open Dec 1 – Oct 15
Road #71828	Paymaster Network	All street legal vehicles	Open Dec 1 – Oct 15
Road #7305	Paymaster Network	All street legal vehicles	Open Dec 1 – Oct 15
Road #7310	Paymaster Network	All street legal vehicles	Open Dec 1 – Oct 15
Road #159B	Stonewall Cr. Road	All street legal vehicles	Open Dec 1 – Oct 15
Road #111D	Spur from Mill Cr. Road to closure in SE corner of Section 16	All street legal vehicles	Open Yearlong
Trail #6011	Pedro Trail from Road #1238 up the NF Ramshorn Cr. to Mill Cr. Divide.	ATVs and dirt bikes	Open Dec 1 – Oct 15

¹ Map numbers correspond to the same numbered locations depicted on the Area 5 and 22 Closure map electronically available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/b-d/projects/>

General Vacinity Map

-  Tobacco Roots
-  ② Areaclosure
-  ⑤ Areaclosure

Whitehall

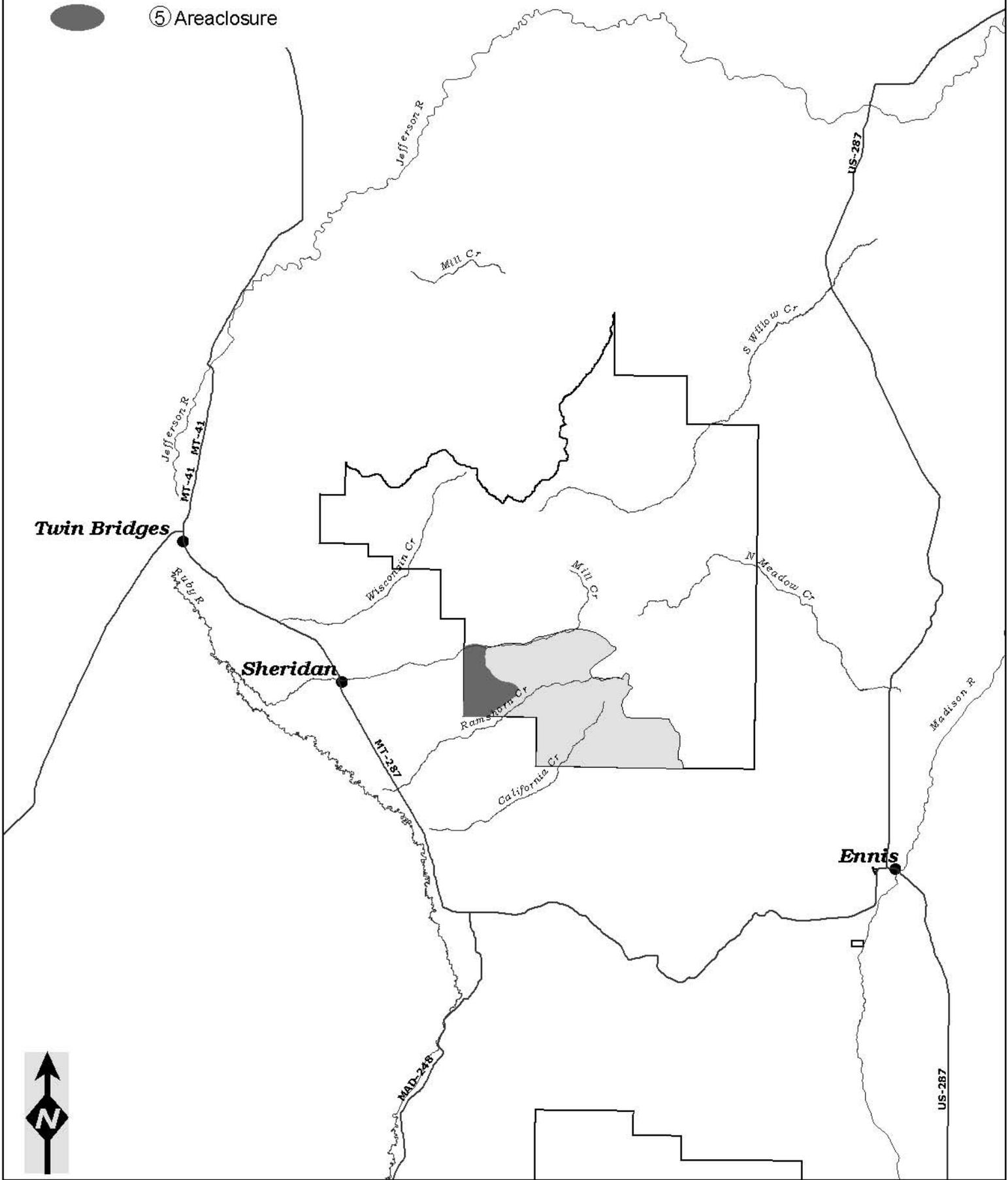


TABLE 2
Proposed Changes to Designated Routes

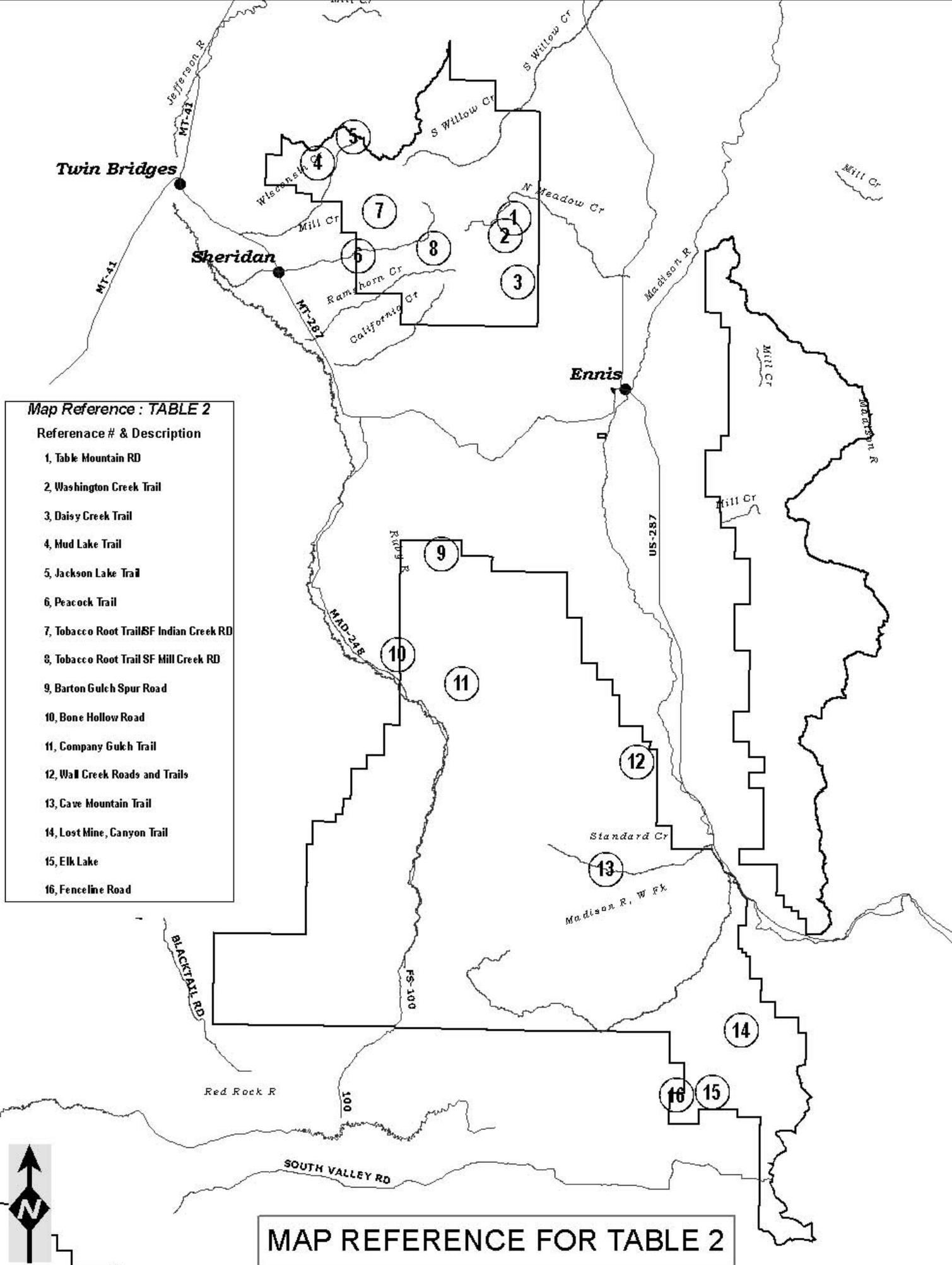
Map #¹	Description	Proposed Change	Reason
1	Table Mountain Road #9609	Change: Open to ATVs and dirt bikes yearlong Existing: Open to street legal vehicles yearlong	Existing condition of bridges not suitable for use by full sized vehicles
2	Washington Creek Trail #6360	Change: Open to ATVs and dirt bikes yearlong Existing: Open to dirt bikes yearlong	Existing trail is suitable for use by ATVs.
3	Daisy Creek Trail #6313	Change: Close to summer motorized use Existing: Open to dirt bikes yearlong.	Trail (0.6 miles) does not access a trailhead, dispersed campsite or scenic overlook
4	Mud Lake Trail #6310	Change: Open to ATVs and dirt bikes yearlong Existing: Open to dirt bikes yearlong.	Existing trail is suitable for use by ATVs.
5	Jackson Lake Trail #6307	Change: Open to ATVs and dirt bikes yearlong Existing: Open to ATVs and dirt bikes June 2 to Sept 9	Modify season of use so it is consistent with other roads/trails in the drainage.
6	Peacock Trail #6017	Change: Close to summer motorized use Existing: Open to dirt bikes yearlong	No public access to motorized portion of trail.
7	Tobacco Root Trail – #6015 SF Indian Creek	Change: Close to summer motorized use Existing: Open to ATVs and dirt bikes June 2 to Sept 9	Closure is easily located on-the-ground (stream crossing) rather than mid-slope in the drainage.
8	Tobacco Root Trail – #6015 SF Mill Creek	Change: Close to summer motorized use Existing: Open to street legal vehicles Dec 2 to Oct 14	Closure is easily located on-the-ground (stream crossing) rather than mid-slope in the drainage.
9	Barton Gulch Spur Road #8324	Change: Open to street legal vehicles May 15 to Oct 15 Existing: Open to street legal vehicles May 16 to Dec 1	Modify season of use so it is consistent with other National Forest roads in the area
10	Bone Hollow Road #9669	Change: Close to summer motorized use Existing: Open to street legal vehicles May 16 to Dec 2	No motorized public access to National Forest portion of road
11	Company Gulch Trail #9677	Change: Close to summer motorized use Existing: Open to ATVs and dirt bikes Dec 2 to Sept 9	Trail does not access a trailhead, dispersed campsite or scenic overlook, is difficult to find and ends on private land

¹ Map Numbers correspond to the same numbered locations depicted on Map 2

TABLE 2
Proposed Changes to Designated Routes

Map # ¹	Description	Proposed Change	Reason
12	Wall Creek Roads and Trails	Change: Open existing motorized routes accessed via Wall Creek Game Range on May 1 Existing: Open May 15	Modify seasonal restrictions on the National Forest so they are consistent with motorized access on the Wall Creek Game Range.
13	Cave Mountain Trail #6421	Change: Close to summer motorized use Existing: Open to ATVs and dirt bikes Dec 2 to Sept 9	Closure is easily located on-the-ground (stream crossing) rather than mid-slope in the drainage.
14	Lost Mine Canyon Trail #6035	Change: Close to summer motorized use Existing: Open to dirt bikes Aug 2 to Feb 14	Provide a quiet trail opportunity in the Chain of Lakes Area (Wade and Cliff Lakes currently have a no-wake speed)
15	Elk Lake	Change: Restrict Motorboat Use to “No Wake” speed Existing: No restrictions	Other lakes in the area (Chain of Lakes and Red Rock Refuge) have a no wake speed or do not allow motorized boats
16	Fenceline Road #8388	Change: Close to summer motorized use Existing: No restrictions	Road is closed on State and Red Rock Refuge lands
No Map #	Madison Ranger District	Change: Prohibit landing any aircraft or dropping/picking up materials/supplies or person by aircraft ² Existing: No restrictions	Conflict of use with recreationists using traditional methods (horse and back pack) to pack in camp

² This restriction would not apply to Federal, State or local law officers, or members of an organized rescue or firefighting force while performing official duties (such as fire suppression, medical evacuations, search and rescue, etc).



Map Reference : TABLE 2

Reference # & Description

- 1, Table Mountain RD
- 2, Washington Creek Trail
- 3, Daisy Creek Trail
- 4, Mud Lake Trail
- 5, Jackson Lake Trail
- 6, Peacock Trail
- 7, Tobacco Root Trail SF Indian Creek RD
- 8, Tobacco Root Trail SF Mill Creek RD
- 9, Barton Gulch Spur Road
- 10, Bone Hollow Road
- 11, Company Gulch Trail
- 12, Wall Creek Roads and Trails
- 13, Cave Mountain Trail
- 14, Lost Mine, Canyon Trail
- 15, Elk Lake
- 16, Fenceline Road

MAP REFERENCE FOR TABLE 2