

**File Code: 1950**

**Date: SEP 28 2009**

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed is the Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the Idaho City Ranger District (RD) Motorized Wheeled Vehicle Travel Management Plan. You are receiving this letter because you provided comments during the 30-day notice and comment period on the proposed action for the project (as documented in the Environmental Assessment [EA]). The DN/FONSI documents my decision to implement Alternative 3, as described in the Environmental Assessment (EA), as modified. Modified Alternative 3 would limit public motorized wheeled-vehicle travel to a system of designated routes throughout the project area. Other key features of modified Alternative 3 included with my decision are:

1. Designation and addition to the authorized NFS trail system about 139 miles of the 165 miles of known and established but unauthorized routes for public motorized wheeled vehicle travel. Approximately 79 miles of these routes will be designated for vehicles 50" or less in width and about 67 miles will be designated for motorcycle use only. The miles to be designated will include a total of about 104 miles in Unit Areas 1-8 ("E" Area) and 39 miles in Unit Areas 9-11 ("C" & "D" areas).
2. Establishment of three OHV loop trail opportunities, including:
  - Loop 1 (Pike Fork Area) will be designated for motor vehicle use for vehicles less than 50" in width. This loop is located in Unit Area 4. This trail system will provide approximately 22 miles as a loop opportunity.
  - Loop 2 (Thorn Creek Butte Lookout Area) will be designated for motor vehicle use for vehicles less than 50" in width. This loop is located in Unit Areas 7 and 10. This trail system will provide approximately 15 miles as a loop opportunity.
  - Loop 3 (Granite Creek/Rabbit Creek Area) will be designated for motorized vehicle use for motorcycle only. This loop is located in Unit Areas 6 and 10 and utilizes both existing NFS trails and established but unauthorized routes that will be designated. This trail system would provide approximately 25 miles as a loop opportunity.
3. Dual designation of motorized trail and Maintenance Level 1 NFS roads<sup>1</sup>:
  - In Unit Area 2 – Dual designate approximately 6 miles of Maintenance Level 1 NFS roads with a "motorized trail open to vehicles 50" or less in width." This includes entire lengths or portions of NFS Maintenance Level 1 roads 343A1, 343A2, and 386A.
  - In Unit Area 4 - Dual designate approximately 21.5 miles of Maintenance Level 1 NFS roads with a motorized trail open to vehicles 50" or less in width. This includes entire lengths or portions of the Maintenance Level 1 NFS system roads 312A, 312A1, 312A2, 312B, 348I, 348I1, 348I2, 348I3, 348J, 348J1, 348J3, 348J5, 348J6, 348J8, 348J9, 348JA, and 348J.
3. Seasonal closures (September 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>) to address impacts to Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer will be applied to about 54 miles of the trails proposed for motorized use designation.
4. Motorized wheeled-vehicle use off-road to access dispersed campsites within 300 feet of NFS roads and 100 feet NFS trails designated for motorized use will continue with some exceptions as described in Design Feature DC-1 and DC-2 (Appendix C of the DN/FONSI).

---

<sup>1</sup> Maintenance Level 1 roads are closed to all motorized vehicles. A Maintenance Level 1 route may be dual designated as a motorized trail.



The following modifications to Alternative 3 are included as part of my decision:

- An error in the District's database was discovered after the 30-day notice and comment period on the project. In correcting this error, the total number of miles available for designation, the total number of miles to be designated in the project area, and the total number of miles designated for motorcycle use only, decreased by 7 miles. Correcting this error results in no "on-the-ground" changes to the miles to be designated; rather, this change only reflects correction of a computational error.
- Seasonal closures (September 15 – June 15) will not be established on trail segments 10-010, 10-017, 10-065, 10-067, 10-068, 10-069, and 10-070. These segments comprise an approximately five-mile trail commonly known as "Good Hoodoo." With this modification, users can access the existing NFS trail in North Fork Rabbit Creek and up to Sunset Lookout, as well as other segments adopted in this decision. This modification also eliminates a potential safety hazard, because with the seasonal closures, recreational OHV use would have been directed onto the North Fork Boise River road (NFS road 327).
- In the EA, trail segment 08-018 (0.67 miles) was incorrectly listed as "open to motorcycles only" under Alternative 1 (due to a database error). The correct listing should have been "open to all motorized vehicles 50" or less." Trail segment 08-018 was also listed as "open to motorcycles only" under Alternatives 2 and 3. With my decision, I am modifying Alternative 3 to include the designation of trail segment 08-018 as "open to all motorized vehicles 50" or less."

Appendix A of this DN/FONSI provides a list of road segments and how they are designated through this decision. Appendix B includes maps illustrating the modifications to Alternative 3.<sup>2</sup> Appendix C specifies the design features and monitoring included as part of my decision. Appendix D summarizes the comments received during the 30-day notice and comment period and the associated Forest Service responses. Appendix E summarizes modified Alternative 3 in a tabular form, displaying major features of the alternative and its response to significant issues (similar to Table 2-5 in the EA).

The final EA is available at the Boise NF website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/boise>) or by contacting the Idaho City RD at the address and phone number above.

Please contact Michael Feiger or myself at the Idaho City RD (208-392-6681) if you have questions or need more information.

Many of you actively participated in the planning for this project, and I appreciate your help and involvement. Thank you for your interest in our public land and resource management!

Sincerely,

  
BARBARA A. LEVESQUE  
District Ranger

Enclosure

---

<sup>2</sup>The remaining segments in Alternative 3 that will be designated with my decision are displayed in the maps included in Appendix B of the EA.