South Plateau Travel Planning Area

A. Travel Area Goals, Objectives, Standards and Guidelines

GOAL 1: Summer Recreation Use. Provide opportunities for high levels of summer recreation use with an emphasis on pleasure driving, mountain biking, motorcycle and ATV riding.

OBJ. 1-1: Achieve the summer recreation opportunities identified in GOAL 1 through the route-by-route management decisions made through this Travel Plan. Any future proposals to change the uses specified should be done in consideration of the targeted recreation setting to be provided [see the “Recreation Opportunity Spectrum” (ROS) map for summer uses (October, 2006)] which is hereby incorporated by reference.

OBJ. 1-2: Relocate the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail from open roads to trails.

OBJ. 1-3: Provide an alternative ATV route south of Highway 287, in the Buttermilk Creek area, that alleviates the safety concerns with people riding in the highway right-of-way.

GOAL 2: Winter Recreation Use. Provide opportunities for motorized and non-motorized recreation use emphasizing snowmobiling and cross-country skiing on well-groomed routes.

OBJ. 2-1: Achieve the winter recreation opportunities identified in GOAL 2 through the marked and groomed route management decisions made through this Travel Plan along with decisions made on the area available to snowmobiles. Any future proposals to change the uses specified should be done in consideration of the targeted recreation setting to be provided [see the “Recreation Opportunity Spectrum” (ROS) map for winter uses (October, 2006)] which is hereby incorporated by reference.

OBJ. 2-2: Relocate the South Plateau Snowmobile Trail to begin at a point in West Yellowstone where it does not have to cross the Rendezvous Ski Trail.

GOAL 3: Fisheries. Provide habitat for westslope cutthroat trout in the upper South Fork of the Madison River.

In this Travel Planning Area, this goal is pursued through application of Forest-wide standards.

GOAL 4: Other Resource Protection. Provide a road and trail system that accommodates traffic consistent with protecting soil and watershed condition.

OBJ. 4-1: Repair damage to road and trail system and schedule maintenance to attain conditions that are non-erosive.
OBJ. 4-2: Provide interpretive/educational signing along motorized routes and in affected areas, asking motorized users seeking camp spots to stay out of wet, muddy and shrubby areas, and to keep vehicles (and campsites) a minimum distance (e.g. 50 feet) from lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.

B. Alternative Route-By-Route Management

See attached table.