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Route To:

Subject: Travel Management Rule and NEPA Analysis

To: Forest Supervisors

In July a team of NEPA specialists from the Region met for a week in the Regional Office to look specifically at travel management decisions that currently exist within Region 2. We then determined what level of NEPA analysis will be required to bring these existing decisions into compliance with the Travel Management Rule. Specifically, the team looked at the following clause:

36 CFR 212.51 (b) Motor vehicle use for dispersed camping or big game retrieval. In designating routes, the responsible official may include in the designation the limited use of motor vehicles within a specified distance of certain designated routes, and if appropriate within specified time periods, solely for the purposes of dispersed camping or retrieval of a downed big game animal by an individual who has legally taken that animal.

The team developed templates and helpful hints for forests to use when conducting NEPA analysis specifically related to the above clause.

In addition, travel management rule coordinators from each Forest had previously sent the Regional Office information related to this issue from their Forest Plans, Travel Management Plans, Forest Orders, and Forest Recreation Maps. The NEPA team looked at the information provided and developed a decision framework for each of the Forests.

It was found that only two Forests can implement the Rule without doing any further environmental analysis:

- The Bighorn which allows motorized travel for dispersed camping only within a 300-foot corridor
- The PSI which allows no travel off of designated routes.

These recommendations are a result of the team's analysis but should not be considered firm direction because the NEPA Team may not have had access to all forest orders or other information pertaining to travel management on each National Forest and/or Grassland. Rather than issuing direction, the team's task was to evaluate what it would take to expedite the designation process realizing that future refinement may need to take place through a multi-staged process for each forest or unit.



If you have any specific questions on the information provided in the enclose paper, please call Pam Skeels (303-275-5152).

/s/ Greg Griffith
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Enclosure