

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

MOTORIZED TRAVEL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – IN A NUTSHELL



January 12, 2010

In April 2009, the Dixie NF signed a decision establishing a system of designated motorized travel routes across the forest. The decision also prohibited cross-country (off trail/road) travel. The new system of designated routes provides approximately 2,700 miles of routes for the motorized user. There are an additional 1,000 miles of routes that are open only for permitted or administrative (official resource management) uses. The decision analyzed approximately 5,200 miles of the known routes (both “authorized” or system and “unauthorized” or non-system) on the forest.

Implementing this decision is going to take a long-term commitment from the Dixie NF and strong, meaningful partnerships with local/state government, user groups, and interest groups. The Dixie NF Task Force has been formed to help with this task. To assist the Dixie NF and its partners in this effort, a Motorized Travel Plan Implementation Plan has been created.

The plan is divided into four areas: Education, Engineering, Enforcement, and Evaluation. Please refer to the plan for more details about the 4 E’s. The decision will be implemented over many years. To help focus implementation efforts the Dixie NF has created Implementation Areas to assign priority to different parts of the forest.

In addition to the Task Force, the Dixie NF has established a Motorized Travel Plan Implementation Team lead by Nick Glidden. Nick is available by phone at (435) 865-3700.

While the recent Motorized Travel Plan decision establishes a designated system across the forest, many previous decisions established portions of this network even before the April 2009 decision.

- Annually, the Dixie NF maintains over 500 miles of motorized trails and 500 miles of roads.
- Since 2007, the Dixie NF has improved over 20 miles of motorized trail.
- Between 2002 and 2008, the Dixie NF decommissioned over 150 miles of routes in the Duck/Swains area.
- In 2009, the Dixie NF implemented the Motorized Travel Plan decision in two implementation areas (IA) – School Wash and Griffin Springs. This involved improving eight miles of road, constructing one trailhead and three information kiosks, and decommissioning over 100 miles of road.
- The Dixie NF averages over 3,000 hours of volunteer work annually. Much of this volunteer work is related to implementing travel planning decisions.
- Partnerships with groups and companies such as Utah State Parks, Garfield County Trails, Southern Utah University, Yamaha, Kane County, and Polaris have already expanded the forest’s capacity to implement travel management.
- In 2010, the Dixie NF will commit over \$1.2 million to implementing the Motorized Travel Plan decision. This represents a significant portion of the forest’s annual budget. Implementation in 2010 will focus on the following areas: North Dutton IA (Powell RD), Haycock IA (Cedar City RD), Pretty Tree IA (Escalante RD), Duck Creek ATV Bridge (Aspen Mirror) and trail improvement, Jensen Sawmill creek crossing and Reed Valley reroute (Cedar City RD).