

# Operation and Maintenance Plan

## Suggested Outline

### What is an Operation and Maintenance Plan (O & M)?

- A plan, mutually formulated by the holder and the authorized officer under which the holder of a special use authorization will conduct operations and manage activities while occupying National Forest System lands.
- Upon signature, it becomes a part of the authorization and may be for the tenure of the permit or revised as needed.
- The complexity and specificity of the plan is commensurate with the complexity of the operations.
- AKA Right-of-Way Management Plan (power lines, pipelines, phone lines)
- No standard form or format – varies by use type

### Why is an O & M Plan needed?

- To protect NFS land and resources affected by the holder's activities.
- Useful for clarifying the standard SUP clauses or in addition to standard clauses.
- Critical components of SU Authorization package.
- It is key to successful permit administration.

### Components of an O & M Plan

- History of operation; mission, goals and objectives.
- Specifics of the program designed to achieve objectives.
- Description of the Operation: dates, times, location, roads, trails, sites used, number of guests/participants, equipment used.
- Staff qualifications, training, certifications.
- Safety: identification of hazards and risks, evacuation plan, search and rescue plan, communications.
- Actions to ensure protection of the environment: livestock operation, camp management plan, rehabilitation of the area, compliance with regulations, containment of exotics, handling of toxics, campsite location, rehabilitation of the area, compliance with regulations, and containment of exotics.

