



Travel Management Plan Discussion Paper—Draft: 7.24.12

Access for People With Disabilities

What Is the Concern?

During the travel management plan public comment periods, concern was expressed that people who are less physically able, disabled, or elderly will have limited access to the national forest. Without the use of their motor vehicles, they feel their enjoyment of the national forest will be restricted. There is concern that the plan may discriminate against people with disabilities.

How Will This Concern Be Addressed?

Under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, no person with a disability can be denied participation in a federal program that is available to all other people solely because of his or her disability. In conformance with section 504, wheelchairs are welcome on all National Forest System lands that are open to foot travel. Wheelchairs, manual and electric, are specifically exempted from the definition of motor vehicle in section 212.1 of the final rule. Reasonable restrictions on motor vehicle use, applied consistently to everyone, are not discriminatory. By providing a range of motorized access throughout the forest, the forest remains accessible to everyone.

To read the full response to the question as it was addressed during the 2005 rule making for the federal Travel Management Rule, see the **Federal Register** /Vol. 70, No. 216 /Wednesday, November 9, 2005 /Rules and Regulations **68285**.



Are There Exceptions or Options?

One option for providing more access would be to allow motorized access within 300 feet of designated open roads for a variety of activities. Some people would like to see legal changes that would allow the use of motorized vehicles by people who are elderly or less physically fit in areas that are otherwise closed to motorized use.

Your Comments Are Appreciated

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will be hosting several community workshops to discuss the specific issues raised by the public regarding the proposed travel management plan. Please check for notices of the public meetings at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman/>.