

CONSISTENCY WITH ADJACENT NATIONAL FOREST TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING.

The ID Team identified inconsistent travel management direction on adjoining administrative units, such as the Gallatin National Forest in the Crazy Mountains, as an issue that may result in user conflicts and enforceability concerns. The measures used to evaluate effects are:

- A qualitative comparison of travel management direction on routes that cross administrative boundaries, and identification of inconsistencies, if any.

1. EXISTING CONDITION

The Gallatin National Forest manages the east half of the northern Crazy Mountains. **The Gallatin Forest recently released their final EIS and Record of Decision (signed 10/30/06) for travel management. The analysis for this FEIS compares the Gallatin's decision with Lewis and Clark Forest travel management alternatives.** The forests have been in communication to try to ensure that management is consistent between the administrative units and that public confusion over differing travel management determinations is minimized.

Several trails cross both administrative units. Trail #638-#639 on the Lewis and Clark connects to trail # 130 on the Gallatin Forest in the Virginia Peak area. This trail system is also referred to as the Honey Run trail.

Under existing conditions, route #638 on the Lewis and Clark and #130 on the Gallatin to its junction with trail #642 are closed yearlong to 4x4s and ATVs, and open December 2-October 14 to trail bikes and snowmobiles. From this junction to the west, trail #639/130 are closed yearlong to 4x4s and open from December 2-October 14 to ATVs, motorbikes, and snowmobiles.

Trail #640 on the Lewis and Clark Forest crosses onto the Gallatin Forest to connect with trail #266 in the Lodgepole Creek area. Trail #640 on the Lewis and Clark Forest is closed yearlong to 4x4s and ATVs, but open December 2-October 14 to motorbikes and snowmobiles.

Route #8913 on the Lewis and Clark traverses the administrative boundary west of Target Rock. This route is currently open seasonally to all forms of motorized vehicles on the Lewis and Clark side.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

a. Summer Alternatives 1 – 5

1. Direct and Indirect Effects

Table III-35 below **compares** travel management, by alternative, for those trails on the Gallatin National Forest that cross over onto the Lewis and Clark Forest in the Crazy Mountains. The narrative that follows compares the Lewis and Clark travel management alternatives with those of the **Gallatin travel plan decision** and notes any possible conflicts.

**Table III-35. Use on Gallatin NF Trails adjoining LCNF,
Comparison of Gallatin National Forest Travel Plan Decision with LCNF Alternatives***

Trail	ALTERNATIVE	4x4	ATV	Motorcycle	Snowmobile	Horse	Mtn bike
Honey Run Trail #130 Segment 1 (from trlhead north to jct with L&C trail #645. Trail # 645 on L&C	Gallatin N. F. decision	Closed yearlong	Restricted 9/15-6/15	Restricted 9/15-6/15	Restricted 10/15-12/1	No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 1	Closed yearlong	Restricted 10/15-12/1	Restricted 10/15-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 3	Closed yearlong	Restricted 10/15-12/1	Restricted 10/15-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 4	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 5	Closed yearlong	Restricted 9/1-12/1	Restricted 9/1-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Winter Alts.				Alt 1: Restrict 10/15-12/1 Alts 2-3: Restr. 5/2-11/ 30		
Honey Run Trail #130 Segment 2 (from jct with L&C trail #645, s.e. to jct with trail #642. Trail portion on L&C	Gallatin N. F. decision	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Restricted 10/15-12/1	No Restrictions	Closed yearlong
	L&C Sum. Alt 1	Closed yearlong	Restricted 10/15-12/1	Restricted 10/15-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 3	Closed yearlong	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 4	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 5	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Winter Alts.				Alt 1: Restrict 10/15-12/1 Alts 2-3: Restr. 5/2-11/ 30		
Honey Run Trail #130 Segment 3 (from trail #642 to Virginia Peak) Trail # 638 on L&C	Gallatin N.F. decision	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Restricted 10/15-12/1	No Restrictions	Closed yearlong
	L&C Sum. Alt 1	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Restricted 10/15-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 3	Closed yearlong	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 4	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 5	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Winter Alts.				Alt 1: Restrict 10/15-12/1 Alts 2-3: Restr. 5/2-11/ 30		

Trail	ALTERNATIVE	4x4	ATV	Motorcycle	Snowmobile	Horse	Mtn bike
Lodgepole Creek Trail #266 Seg 2 (from m.p. 1 to divide with L&CNF trail #640)	Gallatin N. F. decision	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	No Restriction	No Restrictions	Closed yearlong
Trail #640 on L&C	L&C Sum. Alt 1	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Restricted 10/15-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 3	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Restricted 10/15-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 4	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 5	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong	Closed yearlong		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Winter Alts.				Alt 1: Restrict 10/15-12/1 Alts 2-3: Closed yearlong		
East Fork Smith Creek Road #6635 Segment 3	Gallatin N. F. decision	Closed yearlong	Restricted 10/15-6/15	Restricted 10/15-6/15	Restricted 10/15-12/1	No Restrictions	No Restrictions
Road #8913 on L&C	L&C Sum. Alt 1	Restricted 9/1-12/1	Restricted 9/1-12/1	Restricted 9/1-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 3	Restricted 9/1-12/1	Restricted 9/1-12/1	Restricted 9/1-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 4	Restricted 9/1-12/1	Restricted 9/1-12/1	Restricted 9/1-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Sum. Alt 5	Restricted 9/1-12/1	Restricted 9/1-12/1	Restricted 9/1-12/1		No Restrictions	No Restrictions
	L&C Winter Alts				Alts 1-2: Restrict 9/1-12/1 Alt 3: Restrict April -12/15		
* hiking allowed on all trails in all alternatives							

Under Alternative 1, travel restriction on the Honey Run trail system on the L&CNF would be in conflict with those identified in the Gallatin travel plan decision for segment 2 and all alternatives for segment 3 of trail #130 on the Gallatin. **Seasonal closure dates are also dissimilar to those of the Gallatin Forest.**

Under L&CNF alternative 3, the Honey Run trails segment identified as segment #1 would be managed on the Lewis and Clark to prohibit 4x4 use yearlong, but allow ATV and motorbike use from 12/2-10/14 (i.e. restricted from 10/15–12/1). **The Gallatin decision also allows seasonal motorbike and ATV use on this segment, but restriction periods are different than those for L&CNF Alternative 1 (i.e. restricted 9/15-6/15).** The rest of the trail segments on the Lewis and Clark would be open to ATVs and motor bikes yearlong. This would be in conflict with the Gallatin travel plan decision for segments 2 and 3, which closes those segments to summer motorized uses.

Under L&CNF alternative 4, all the Honey Run trail segments on the Lewis and Clark would be closed yearlong to summer motorized uses. This would conflict with the **Gallatin decision** for segment #1, which maintains seasonal ATV **and motorcycle** use on this segment.

Under L&CNF alternative 5, segment #1 would be closed yearlong to 4x4s, and closed seasonally (9/1-12/1) to ATVs and motorbikes. This segment connects to LCNF Trail #645 which would have the same restrictions. The remaining segments would be closed yearlong to wheeled motorized use. This is consistent with the Gallatin decision for most of the Honey Run trail except for closure dates on segment #1. The Gallatin decision would restrict segment #1 from **September 15** – June 15. These dates would keep the trail open during Labor Day weekend and the Gallatin Forest felt the trail was generally impassable until mid June. A conflict of dates with connecting routes on the Lewis and Clark Forest, however, could be confusing to the public on this segment.

Under L&CNF Alternatives 1 and 3, trail #640 on the L&CNF that connects to trail #266 on the Gallatin is closed yearlong to 4x4s and ATVs, and restricted 10/15-12/1 for motorbikes and snowmobiles. **Under the Gallatin decision, trail #266 is closed yearlong to motorbikes.** Travel plan violations of motorbike use coming from the Lewis and Clark side over onto restricted routes on the Gallatin could occur. **L&C Alternatives 4 and 5 are consistent with the Gallatin decision, however.**

Routes also cross administrative boundaries in the Lodgepole/Eagle Creek area. The Gallatin portion of this route is the East Fork Smith Creek Road #6635 segment #3. **Under the Gallatin travel plan decision, this route would be closed yearlong to 4x4s and open seasonally (see Table III-35) to ATVs and motorbikes.** Under all Lewis and Clark alternatives, route #8913 would be restricted seasonally (closed September 1 – December 1) to all forms of wheeled motorized travel, **including 4x4s. Modes of vehicle travel on this route would be inconsistent with the Gallatin decision and seasonal closure dates are not consistent, which could cause confusion to public users and increase the possibility of violations.**

b. Winter Alternatives 1 - 3

1. Direct and Indirect Effects

Route Restrictions

The Honey Run trail segments on the Lewis and Clark Forest under Alternative 1 would be restricted to snowmobile use from 10/15-12/1. This is consistent with restriction dates for snowmobiles under the **Gallatin decision**. Under Lewis and Clark winter alternative 2, **these routes would be open to snowmobile use during the winter period, which is defined as December 1 – May 1. This is also consistent with the Gallatin decision.** Under winter alternative 3, **the portion of segment 3 of the Honey Run Trail #130 on the Gallatin would be seasonally restricted to snowmobile use, but connections on trail #638 on the Lewis and Clark would be closed yearlong. This could result in conflicts on that trail segment.**

Under Lewis and Clark winter Alternative 1, trail #640 on the Lewis and Clark would be restricted to snowmobile use from 10/15-12/1. **There are no seasonal restrictions on the adjoining route on the Gallatin NF. There is a potential for snowmobile travel coming across the divide from the Gallatin side during the hunting season and possible conflict with closures on trail #640 on the Lewis and Clark side.** Under L&C winter alternatives 2 and 3, trail #640 would be closed yearlong to snowmobile use. **This also could be inconsistent with snowmobile use under the Gallatin travel plan decision, if there is much snowmobile use across the topographic divide.**

Routes in the East Fork Smith Creek area on the Gallatin Forest are restricted seasonally to snowmobile use (closed October 15-December 1). Connecting routes on the Lewis and Clark Forest under winter alternatives 1 and 2 would be restricted to snowmobile use from September 1 – December 1. **This would be consistent with snowmobile use on routes connecting to the Gallatin as there is small likelihood of snow conditions being such that snowmobiles could travel routes in September or early October anyway.** Under Lewis and Clark winter alternative 3, this connecting route would be restricted from April to December 15. Season of use conflicts could potentially arise under **this alternative.**

Area Restrictions

Under the Gallatin winter use decision, the area around the Honey Run trail to the Lodgepole Creek drainage on the Gallatin Forest would be restricted to snowmobile use from **10/15-12/1**. The area from Lodgepole Creek east to about the center of the northern boundary of Section 26, T5N, R11E, would be open to snowmobile use yearlong; the remaining shared boundary with the Lewis and Clark (east to the Forest boundary) would be closed yearlong to snowmobile use except on designated routes. There are no designated routes that cross administrative units in this area.

Under Lewis and Clark winter alternative 1, the entire portion of the Crazies adjoining the Gallatin Forest is open to snowmobile use without restrictions. Under L&C winter alternative 2, the area from Lodgepole Creek to the eastern forest boundary would be restricted yearlong to snowmobile use, while the remaining boundary would be **open during the winter period, which is defined as December 1 through May 1.** Under Lewis and Clark winter alternative 3, a section of the boundary from the southern edge of section 27, T 6N, R10E to the west

edge of Forest Road #8913, and an area along topographic features from the east edge of Section 6, T5N, R11E east to the forest boundary would be closed yearlong to snowmobiles. The remainder of the boundary would be open to snowmobiles **during the winter period**. None of the combination of winter area use alternatives between the Gallatin and Lewis and Clark is completely consistent. **Topography, however, limits current snowmobile use on the Lewis and Clark portion of the Crazies east of Forest Lake road, so potential for conflict may also be limited even if winter use restrictions across administrative boundaries are not necessarily the same.**

