

Step 1- Setting Up the Analysis

The purposes of this step are to:

- Identify the analysis area and state objectives.
- Develop a process plan for conducting the analysis.
- Clarify the roles of technical specialists.

Project and Objectives:

The TAP includes the entire lands within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. The objectives of the analysis are to provide critical information for a road and motorized trail system that is safe and responsive to public needs and desires, is affordable, conforms to the National Forest Land Management Plan, is efficiently administered, has minimal negative ecological effects on the land, and is in balance with available funding for needed management actions. All existing system roads and motorized trails are included in this Travel Analysis Report.

Interdisciplinary Team Members and Participants (responsible for conducting the Travel Analysis and implementing the Travel Management Rule)

Jim Copeland	Team Leader
Nancy Loving	Geographic Information Specialist
Joe Sitarzewski	Realty Specialist
Beth Dykstra	Recreational Specialist
Dustin Walters	Hydrologist
Jerry Ward	Fisheries Biologist
Cathy Taylor	Wildlife Biologist
Doug Beal	Silviculture/Timber
Chris Bielecki	Civil Engineer

Analysis Timeline

- February 2004: Forest Roads Analysis Process (RAP) completed, addressing maintenance level 3-5 (suitable for passenger cars) roads forestwide.
- 2005: Agency engineering and geospatial personnel work with individual ranger district employees to verify and correct the forest transportation atlas, focusing on maintenance level 2 (recommended for high-clearance vehicles) roads not addressed in the 2004 Forest RAP.
- May 2005-current: route identification signing installed and repaired on national forest system roads managed for the public.
- Spring 2006: ASNFs staff officers decide to share entire transportation system with public, including closed roads, during collaboration process.
- June 2006: Regional implementation guidelines released; transportation atlas clean-up complete; first round of public collaboration meetings to share the implications of the 2005 travel management rule; forest “existing direction” maps shared with the public (and

eventually posted on website) to explain how motorized travel is currently managed on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

- June 2006-current: public comments received, including site-specific suggestions for change to current motorized travel management.
- November 2006: project initiation letter issued to ID Team members.
- January – February 2007: ID Team members meet individually with ranger districts to share draft evaluation criteria and to explain analysis process. Districts begin using evaluation criteria and public comments to develop suggestions for change to transportation system.
- April 2007: Second round of public collaboration meetings. These meetings were held to share a summary of general and site-specific public comments received to date related to motorized travel management.
- October 2007: Draft forest TAP completed and summary report issued. The TAP report includes a list of site-specific technical recommendations to the forest motorized transportation system.
- October 2007: Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) issued and published in federal register.
- January 2008: TAP revision completed.
- *(projected)* June 2009: EIS completed, record of decision issued. Road management objectives (RMOs) and Trail management objectives (TMOs) created based on decision. Access travel management (ATM) data created for use in the MVUM.
- *(projected)* September 2009: MVUM published, officially changing motorized travel management on the unit.
- Beyond 2009: subsequent projects continue as needed, motorized travel implications addressed site-specifically at the project-level scale