

2006 -2007 Carson National Forest Travel Management Rule

Summary of Pre-Scoping Public Comment Received on the Travel Management Rule and process from July of 2006 to February 2007.

Request for Information on Public Meetings and Public Comment Opportunities

- Several letters (including form letters) and emails requested to be informed when public meetings would be held and when public comment would be requested.
- Several comments were received requesting information on how the public would be involved.

Access:

For stock users, would pulling off on the side of the road to park with trailers be allowed? Trailheads that have adequate access and parking for horse trailers are limited.

Responsible Official

- Who is the Responsible Official for the Carson NF?
- Will this be a site specific analysis or be made at a higher level – at the Region?

Opportunities for Quality Experiences

- In many forests, motorized use dominates the landscape at the expense of almost any other activity.
- There are fewer places where families, hikers, horse back riders can find quality experiences and avoid conflict with ATV's.

Resource Protection

- Protect roadless areas.
- Unmanageable use of motorized increases habitat fragmentation and erosion and undermines efforts on lands that should be preserved for future generations.
- Limit motorized vehicles to provide protection.

- I frequent wilderness areas. Off road vehicles produce pollution including environmental and noise (pollution).
- Natural areas are for everyone and should not be degraded for a few.
- Damage to forest lands is occurring due to poorly regulated and controlled off-road vehicles incursions.

Access

Motorized vehicles need to be controlled and where and how these vehicles have access to forests needs to be addressed.

Law Enforcement

Rules must be enforceable.

Recommendations

- Ban off road motorized vehicles.
- Due to the sheer number of routes and trails evaluate system routes only.
- Consult with law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance with designations.
- Use the designation of areas sparingly and at a small scale.
- Designate routes that provide access to dispersed camping opportunities or allow camping adjacent to designated routes.
- Using a designated fixed distance from open routes for cross country travel or camping would be difficult to enforce.
- Do not support the use of a permit system to allow for dispersed camping/cross country travel.
- Do not support exemptions to allow cross country travel for big game retrieval – exemptions will create conflict.
- Encourage product gathering to occur on foot from open routes.
- Limit the extent of using permits (exemptions) for fuel wood gathering as enforcement problems and damage may occur

Forest Product Gathering

The ability to gather forest products is important to many people in the Southwest.