

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Fishlake National Forest Off-Highway Vehicle Route Designation Project

Lead Agency: Fishlake National Forest

Responsible Official: Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor
Fishlake National Forest
115 East 900 North, Richfield, UT 84701

For Information Contact: Dale Deiter
Phone: (435) 896-1007

Abstract: The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) discloses the effects of modifying the current motorized travel plan for the Fishlake National Forest to make it compliant with new travel management regulations. The current travel plan, which is presented as the No Action alternative, maintains existing allowances and restrictions for motorized use and cross-country travel. Each of the action alternatives specifies open routes and areas, seasons of use, and appropriate vehicle types for motorized travel. The preferred alternative, Alternative 5, adds 587 miles of unauthorized routes to and would remove 73 miles of authorized routes from the forest's existing motorized system. About 635 miles of unauthorized motorized routes would be obliterated and 23 miles converted to non-motorized trail. This action would result in a system of roughly 2,181 miles of road and 639 miles of trail for a combined total of 2,820 miles of motorized routes. Of the latter total, 2,742 of these miles would be open to the public. The amount of seasonally restricted routes would increase from 329 miles to 424 miles. The January 1st starting date for seasonal closures would remain, while the ending date for the closure period for nearly all of these routes would be lengthened from March 31 to April 15th. The existing configuration of the Paiute and Great Western Trail systems would be retained. Motorized travel off designated routes would be prohibited except in open use areas or as specified for access to dispersed camping, firewood gathering, emergency fire suppression, search and rescue, law enforcement, military operations, Forest Service administrative use, or for over-snow vehicle travel. Some changes in area restrictions for winter travel by over-snow vehicles are proposed to protect critical mule deer winter ranges. The preferred alternative designates 690 acres in two open use areas west of Richfield, UT and 189 acres at Velvet Ridges above Torrey, UT where motorized cross-country travel would still be permitted. The alternatives also incorporate an implementation plan that identifies strategies for managing risks from motorized use and infrastructure, enforcement considerations, public education plans, monitoring requirements, and, strategic considerations for future travel planning decisions.

Send Comments to: [Dale Deiter](#), OHV Project Leader
115 East 900 North, Richfield, UT, 84701
e-mail: comments-intermtm-fishlake@fs.fed.us

Date Appeals Must Be Received: 45 days after publication of the notice of availability for this document in the Federal Register (see the Record of Decision for details).

Project Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/fishlake/projects/ohv.shtml>