

HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE



NATIONAL FOREST

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING UPDATE

October 7, 2008

Background: Most of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has historically been open to cross-country motor vehicle use. Roads and trails on the Forest arose through use, or date from early minerals exploration – very few were constructed by the agency.

Managing recreation, including use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs), was one of former Chief Dale Bosworth's legacy "four threats or issues" affecting National Forests and Grasslands. In 2005, the Forest Service published a new rule for providing motor vehicle access to these federal lands. The final rule requires each National Forest and Grassland to designate those roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use. The rule itself does not designate roads or areas for motor vehicles, but provides a framework for making those decisions at the local level.

The process to analyze and develop the route designation plan includes:

- Ample local public involvement opportunities in the route designation process;
- Coordination with counties, states, tribes, and all agencies at all levels; and,
- Appropriate environmental analysis, final decision documents, and a route designation process that is consistent with, but separate from, the Forest Plan Revision process.

Current Status: Travel management documents and their respective status are listed below:

- *Spring Mountains NRA* – The motor vehicle use map was published in September 2007, on the basis of a 2005 Environmental Assessment (EA) and is available now.
- *Santa Rosa Ranger District* – The Final EA and decision notice were published in December 2007, and a motor vehicle use map is available now.
- *Carson Ranger District* – The motor vehicle use map will be based on the existing district travel plan and will include recent travel decisions for Peavine, Martis, and Clear Creek areas. The motor vehicle use map is available now.
- *Ely Ranger District* – Scoping of significant issues was initiated in the summer of 2007. The EA, decision notice, and motor vehicle use map will be published in late 2008.
- Download the motor vehicle use maps at this website
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/recreation/mvum/mvum.shtml>

Future Actions: Environmental analysis for the Bridgeport, Austin, Tonopah, and Northeast Nevada units will begin in 2008, with final decisions and motor vehicle use maps to be issued in 2009.

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