

Summary of Public Comments - Desired Future Conditions

Summary of Comments The following is a summary of the public comments for each of the stakeholder categories that were used to summarize the issues and concerns that were identified in Stage 1 of the TMP process. No responses were received from Affected Landowners, Government Agencies, or from persons whose positions were neutral.

It should be noted that some of the comments were echoed by many of the other respondents within the same stakeholder group, whereas other comments may have only been expressed by one or two respondents within the group. In instances where the same comment has been repeated by numerous respondents it will only appear once. In instances where an individual submitted more than one comment letter, their response was only counted once. Also, in order to summarize the comments into short bullet statements to reduce the size of this document, many of the comments have either been edited or paraphrased, while other statements are presented verbatim.

All stakeholders are encouraged to review these summaries and to contact the BLM if you find that a specific comment has been omitted or described inaccurately. You may do this by email at rgfo_comments@blm.gov, or by phoning Dave Walker at 719-269-8545.

Environmental Stakeholders - Stakeholders who are primarily concerned with protecting the natural resources, minimizing impacts on wildlife, and managing public lands for primitive and quiet uses. There were 20 respondents included in this stakeholder category.

Motorized Recreation Stakeholders – Stakeholders who are primarily concerned with expanding and enhancing opportunities on public lands for motorized recreation uses. There were 4 respondents included this stakeholder category.

Non-motorized and Mechanized Recreation Stakeholders – Stakeholders who are primarily concerned with expanding and enhancing opportunities on public lands for hiking, horseback riding, and bicycle riding. There were 8 respondents included in this stakeholder category.

Non-Recreation Uses Stakeholders – Stakeholders who are primarily concerned with facilitating uses that occur on public lands other than recreation uses, such as grazing, irrigation, and utility operations. There were 2 respondents included in this stakeholder category.

Environmental Stakeholders*

1. Motorized uses should be limited to designated trails and roads.
2. Open areas for cross-country motorized uses should not be designated on any public lands.
3. Specialized recreation such as trials events should be moved to either private lands or local special districts.
4. Establishment of the single-track motorcycle trail proposed by CMTRA would be harmful to wildlife, opening up hundreds of acres public lands to unauthorized off-trail use.
5. Public lands should be managed to protect the public land health values including wildlife habitat and connectivity, watershed and riparian areas, rare and uncommon plant communities, and special designation areas.

6. Areas of quiet use should be managed to reduce user conflicts and provide backcountry for quiet use activities.
7. The mountain bike trails proposed by Salida Mountain Trails Park Committee should be properly engineered for fragile terrain and avoid areas where imperiled plants or critical seasonal wildlife habitat occur.
8. When preparing the environmental assessment, BLM should recognize the many surrounding areas that already provide OHV opportunities.
9. OHV trails that were closed in the 1999 Texas Creek EA should not be re-opened.
10. BLM should develop user capacities as a basis for future adaptive management that will keep recreation levels within the constraints of the land.
11. Certain areas should be recognized as Quiet Use areas both to protect natural habitat for wildlife and to provide quiet, non-motorized recreation opportunities.
12. Adopt an access policy that disallows exclusive motorized access from adjoining private lands where the landowner(s) do not allow public access.

* In addition to the comments summarized above, several environmental organizations submitted detailed evaluations of the draft DFCs and MOs for each of the subunits. These comments are too extensive to summarize here but will be considered in the environmental assessment and are included in the administrative record.

Motorized Recreation Stakeholders

1. Posting more signs to enforce standards of use would help to protect resources and reduce user conflicts.
2. All the trails around Texas Creek should remain open to OHVs.
3. Public meetings should be held in Denver during the winter months when more motorized users are available to attend.
4. Keep the existing OHV trails open and open more of them so people can enjoy even more public land.

Non-Motorized Recreation Stakeholders

1. Do not designate parts of Texas Creek as open areas for trials bikes.
2. Do not expand ORVs use in Texas Creek area.
3. Set aside some areas for motorized use and other areas closed to motorized use to ensure that a fair range of uses are provided for quiet use recreation.
4. The draft DFCs that limit the impact of ORVs should be followed in order to protect vegetation, soils, wildlife, and water.

5. BLM does not have adequate funding to enforce closures. Therefore, trials events should not be held on BLM lands because they attract more users that exacerbate management problems.
6. ORV funding should be re-directed to law enforcement and monitoring to help protect special areas.
7. The mountain bike trails proposed by the Salida Mountain Trails Park Committee should be approved.
8. Appropriate levels of access and miles of available trails should be determined in proportion to the numbers of users by type. Increasing the miles of trails available for motorized uses should not be done just because people on motorcycles or ATVs can cover greater distances in a day than hikers or other non-motorized users.
9. A "freeride" mountain bike trail should be provided near Salida.