

APPENDIX D



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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IN REPLY TO:

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November 1, 2000

Email Transmission

Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2001-004

Expires: 9/30/2002

To: MT/DKs Employees

From: State Director

Subject: Cross Country Travel for Administrative Purposes

As BLM employees we are entrusted with an important conservation mission. Because of this mission, we decided to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS)/plan amendment with the Forest Service analyzing the resource issues related to management of motorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) travel. During the OHV public involvement process, the public restated that protection of our resources depends not only on cooperation from our visitors and customers, but from our employees as well.

In the preferred alternative in the draft EIS, we are proposing to limit motorized, wheeled cross-country travel on approximately 15.9 million acres that are currently available to motorized, wheeled cross-country travel, either seasonally or year round. Basically we are recommending that public cross-country travel is no longer acceptable on BLM and National Forest lands with a few exceptions. Based on our commitment to the conservation of the resource, we as agency employees need to set the example and follow our own recommendation as we manage these resources.

Effective immediately, motorized, wheeled cross-country travel for BLM and FS employees is limited to necessary administrative and emergency business. Some examples of necessary administrative use are prescribed fire, noxious weed control, revegetation, surveying, and law enforcement. Where possible, agency personnel performing administrative functions that necessitates cross-country travel should place a sign or notice in the area where they are working to identify for the public the authorized administrative function.

If it is necessary to drive cross-country for official administrative business, let's remember to do the following: avoid riparian areas, steep slopes and areas with important wildlife habitat; wash vehicles after use in weed infested areas; and travel with care near wildlife and cultural sites.

As we move into finalizing the EIS and implementing a decision, we need to be role models for appropriate OHV travel. I expect all supervisors to discuss and implement this direction with their employees.

Signed by: Mat Millenbach, State Director

Authenticated by: Ann Boucher, Editorial Assistant

File Code: 1920/2330 **Date:** November 1, 2000

Route To:

Subject: Motorized Cross-Country Travel for Administrative Purposes

To: Region 1 Employees

As FS employees we are entrusted with an important conservation mission. As part of this mission, we have decided to prepare an EIS/plan amendment with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in Montana and the Dakotas analyzing the resource issues related to management of wheeled motorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) travel. During the OHV public involvement process, the public stated that protection of our resources depends not only on cooperation from our visitors and customers, but from our employees as well.

In the preferred alternative of the draft EIS we limited motorized, wheeled cross-country travel on approximately 15.9 million acres. We are saying that motorized cross-country travel is no longer acceptable on BLM and National Forest lands with a few exceptions. Based on our commitment to conservation, we need to set the example and follow our own recommendations as we manage the public's resources.

To demonstrate the appropriate use of OHVs to the public, permittees, and ourselves the following policy is effective immediately. Motorized, wheeled cross-country travel for all Northern Region employees is limited to necessary administrative and emergency business.

It's time to change how we accomplish our daily tasks in the field. Some examples of necessary administrative use are prescribed fire, noxious weed control, revegetation, surveying, and law enforcement. While doing these activities it is inappropriate, for example, to drive cross-country to eat lunch under the shade of a tree, sightseeing, etc. Where possible, agency personnel performing an administrative function that necessitates cross-country travel should place a sign or notice in the area where they are working to identify for the public the authorized administrative function.

When it is necessary to drive cross-country for official administrative business, remember to: avoid riparian areas, steep slopes, and areas with important wildlife habitat; wash vehicles after use in weed infested areas; and travel with care near wildlife and cultural sites.

Whether you work on a Forest affected by the current OHV EIS or not, we need to be role models for appropriate OHV travel. I expect all supervisors to discuss and implement this direction with their employees.

/s/ Dale N. Bosworth

DALE N. BOSWORTH
Regional Forester