

BLM News Release

For Immediate Release

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BLM Royal Gorge Field Office to Release Arkansas River Travel Management Plan and Proposed Decision Record

The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) has completed the Arkansas River Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment (ARTMP-EA). This document reports analysis of impacts of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area, road, and trail designations on public lands adjacent to the Arkansas River in Fremont, Chaffee, and Custer Counties, Colorado.

This is the BLM's first step in the decision making process for revising travel management in this particular portion of the BLM's Royal Gorge Field Office Resource Management Area. In this step the RGFO is proposing to amend the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan (RMP). The proposed RMP amendment will:

- Change OHV open designations in Texas Creek, Grand Canyon Hills, and Sand Gulch to OHV limited to roads and trails;
- Change OHV open designation at Turkey Rock, a 52 acre portion of the Sand Gulch area, to limited by vehicle type;
- Change OHV limited designation on High Mesa Grassland Research Natural Area/Instant Study Area to OHV closed.

These decisions are based on alternatives and analysis contained in the travel management assessment, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by the BLM, and the goals and objectives of the RMP.

These documents are available on the Royal Gorge Field Office website at the following address:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo/travel_mgmt/arkansas_river_travel0.html

As stated above, this proposed decision is an amendment to the RMP. Amendments to the RMP are subject to a 30-day public protest period (beginning on 12/27/2007) and a concurrent 60-day governor's consistency review. Following the 30-day protest period and 60-day consistency review, BLM will resolve all protests and then issue a final decision record.

Please contact Joe Vieira, Natural Resource Specialist, at (719) 269-8708 for protest procedures and other information.

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