

**Off-Road
Vehicle Use**

Off-Road Vehicle Use

Resource Objectives and Planned Actions

The BLM will attempt to meet the demand for off-road vehicle (ORV) use on public land, while protecting watershed, visual resources and other conflicts which may occur between ORV users, adjacent landowners and permittees. The following actions will be pursued:

1. The 3,800 acres in the Acton area will be designated as restricted to existing roads and trails and authorized use.
2. Off-road vehicle use in the Hamilton's (Asparagus) Point area will be limited to the main access road and the parking area.
3. The Shepherd Ah-Nei area, east of the county road will be designated as limited to authorized use. Authorized use will be restricted to persons holding the grazing lease, and to BLM employees for the purpose of resource management or other similar types of authorizations. This designation affects about 460 acres. The ORV use in the northern portion of the Ah-Nei area west of the county road (approximately 3,090 acres) will be limited to designated roads and trails and authorized use. The southern portion of the area (512 acres) will remain open (see Figure 2.3). In the event of excessive damage, the entire area west of the county road will be closed to ORV use.
4. A 70 acre area in the South Hills will be permanently closed to all vehicle use and a 1,200 acre portion of the area will be closed to use by 4-wheeled vehicles (see Figure 2.4). Management of the South Hills ORV usage through a cooperative agreement will continue with the Billings Motorcycle Club and the Cedar Park subdivision.
5. Existing ORV restrictions in the Pryor Mountains (see Figure 2.5) will remain in effect except that the Bear Spring Road #1, Timber Canyon Road #2, Water Canyon Road #3, Inferno Canyon Road #4, and Demi-John Flat Road, Road #10, will be designated open. These road openings total approximately 9 miles. Turkey Flat Road, Road #11, will be designated closed except for authorized use. This will result in approximately 3 miles of road closure. The ORV use will be limited to designated roads or trails if legal access is acquired to the area 7 miles west of Pompeys Pillar and to Young's Point.

Rationale

This action will allow BLM to manage a reasonable combination of ORV activities among recreationists, neighboring home and landowners, and existing resources. Closing 70 acres in the South Hills to ORV use will reduce conflicts between ORV users and neighboring homeowners. The BLM will maintain the option of closing the Shepherd Ah-Nei Environmental Education Area to ORV use if conflicts become too numerous. The BLM will open five roads on the west side of the Pryor Mountains in response to the U. S. Forest Service opening their connecting roads. The Turkey Flat road is needed only for administrative access to a wild horse trap. Use of this road will remain restricted in order to protect wilderness values.

Monitoring

All areas in the resource area will be monitored for possible ORV damage or violations. This will be conducted by all staff members during routine work assignments. Special attention will be given to closed and limited areas.

Implementation Priorities

Areas that will receive special monitoring attention are prioritized in the following order:

1. South Hills
2. Shepherd Ah-Nei Area
3. Pryor Mountains
4. Acton Area
5. Hamilton's (Asparagus) Point

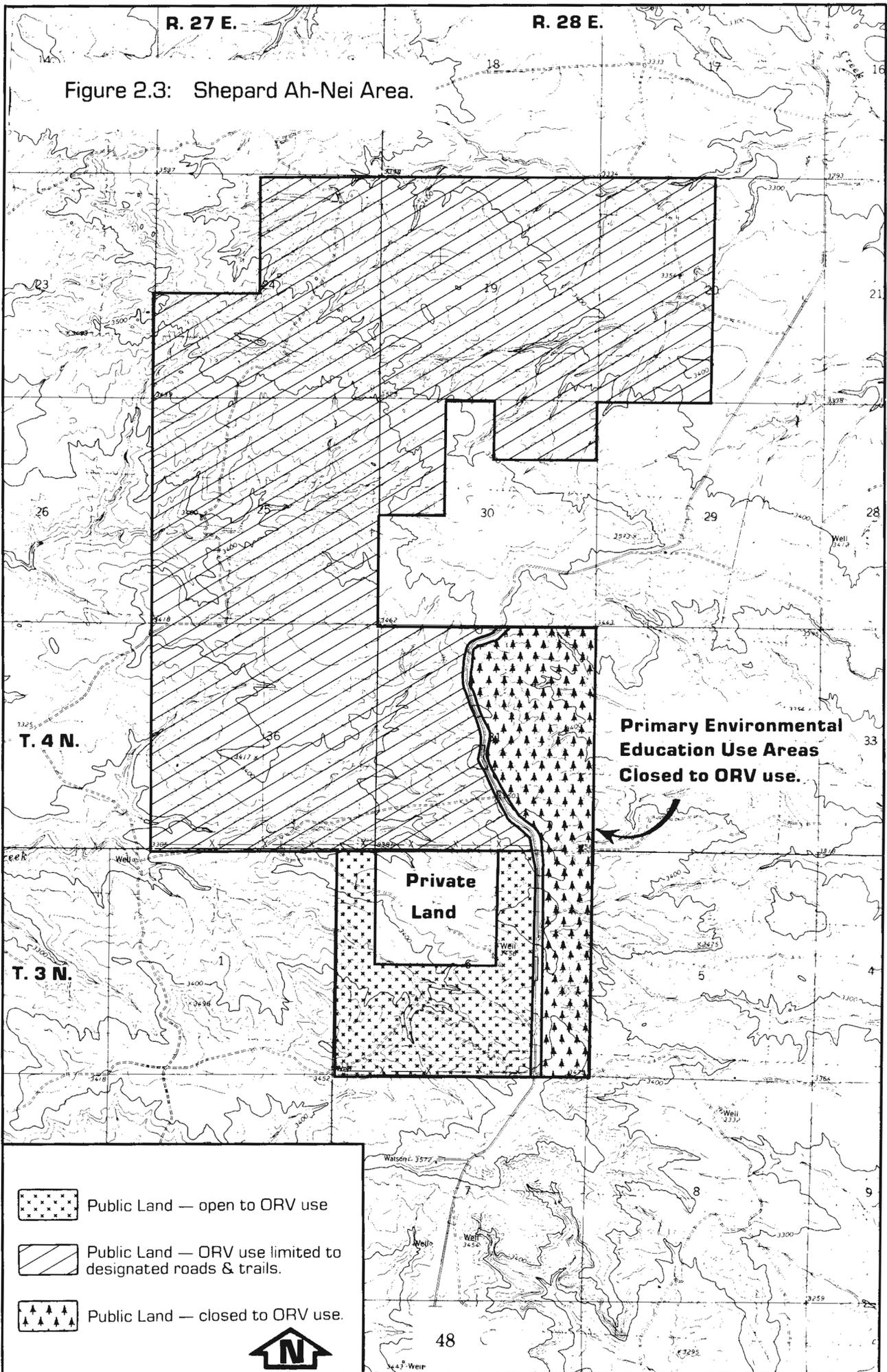
Support

Law enforcement support may be required to enforce closures and limitations. Some cadastral survey may be required to determine property lines.

R. 27 E.

R. 28 E.

Figure 2.3: Shepard Ah-Nei Area.



T. 4 N.

T. 3 N.

Primary Environmental Education Use Areas Closed to ORV use.

Private Land

-  Public Land — open to ORV use
-  Public Land — ORV use limited to designated roads & trails.
-  Public Land — closed to ORV use.



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Figure 2.4: South Hills ORV Area.

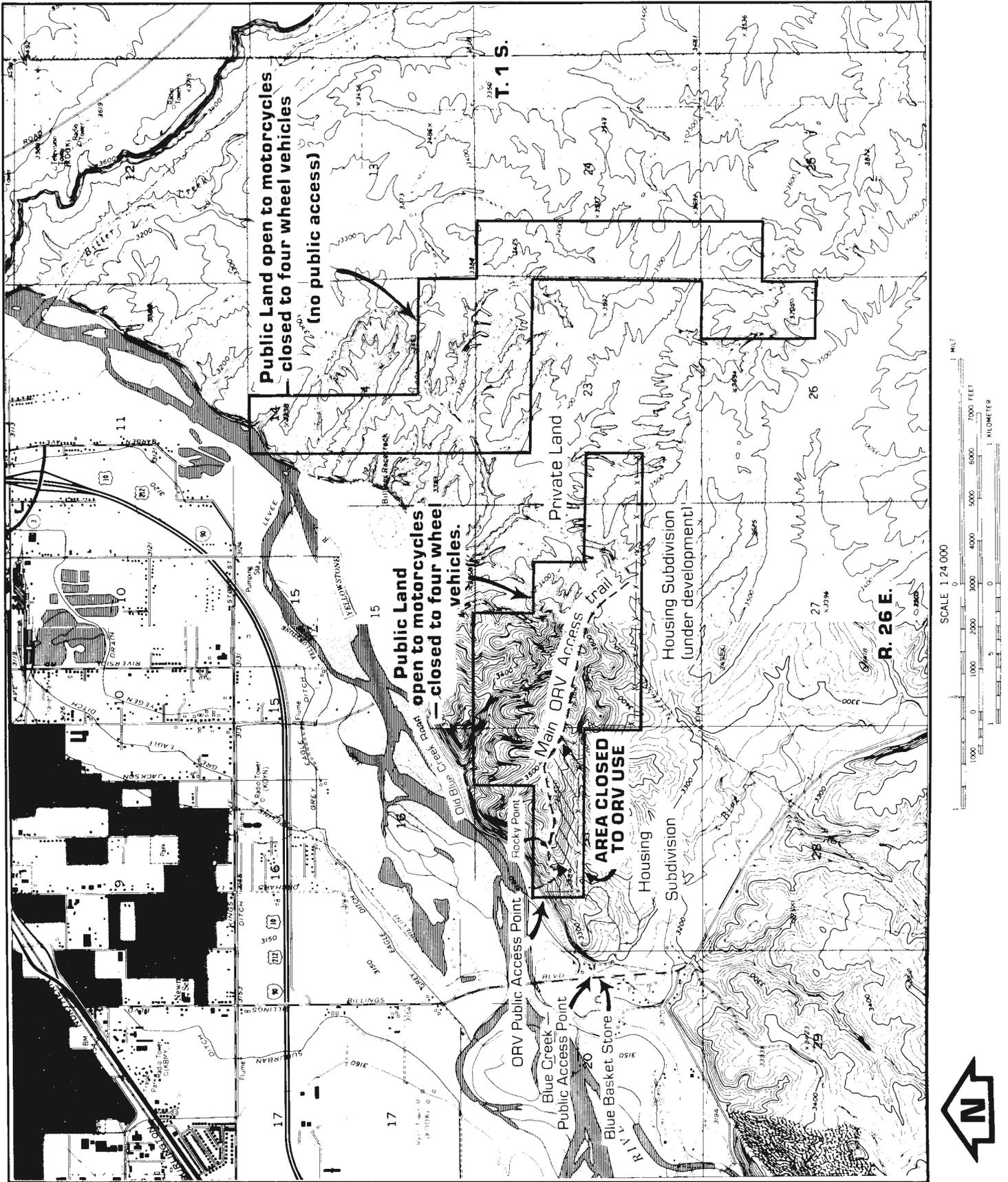


Figure 2.5: Current ORV Designation.

