

Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 directs BLM's St. George Field Office (SGFO) to complete a Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan for public lands in Washington County within three years.

What is a Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan?

A travel management plan is a comprehensive analysis of the access needs of all public land users. Access needs are evaluated in conjunction with the BLM's legal mandate to protect natural and cultural resources on public lands. Individual route evaluations and designations that are included in the SGFO Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management Plan will be analyzed in an Environmental Assessment (EA). Based on this comprehensive analysis, every route on BLM-managed lands will receive one of the following designations:

- **Open:** Route is open for use by the public.
- **Limited:** Travel on this route is limited to the public in some form (seasonal restriction, administrative access, vehicle width restriction, non-motorized use, etc.).
- **Closed:** Route is closed to one or more uses.

Who are public lands users?

Travel management planning takes a comprehensive look at the access needs of a wide array of public land users. These include:

Recreational Users

This is the largest public lands user group. It includes both motorized and non-motorized users. Motorized users include full-size 4WD enthusiasts, ATV/UTV riders, and off-road motorcyclists. Non-motorized users include equestrians, mountain bikers, hikers, hunters, and rock climbers.

Commercial Users

This user group depends on access to public lands for their livelihood. It includes oil and gas companies, mining companies, livestock grazing permittees, commercial seed harvesters, and outfitters who offer a wide variety of guiding services for all forms of motorized and non-motorized recreation.

Competitive and Organized Group Events

A wide variety of competitive and group events take place on public lands every year. The BLM issues permits for off-road motorcycle races, 4WD group events, ATV group events, mountain bike races, running races, adventure races, weddings, and family reunions.

Administrative Users

This is a diverse user group, consisting of municipal and county governments, power companies, and utility companies. They require access in order to maintain utilities that are within public lands rights-of-way.



St. George Field Office Travel Management Planning Process

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How can I provide input?

You can provide input to the travel management planning process in a variety of ways. The most important is submitting route inventory data. Here's how:

- 1) Take a close look at the maps available.
- 2) Did we miss your favorite route?
- 3) If you see a route missing, here's how to submit the information:
 - Draw the route on one of the available maps
 - Submit your own map before the scoping deadline
 - Submit Google Earth files in KML format
 - You can e-mail KML files to utsgrmp@blm.gov
 - Submit GIS data in ESRI shapefile format
 - Please include projection information with your GIS data

Is there other information that you think would be valuable?

Identifying specific routes that are important to you would be very beneficial. Identifying why they are important is also critical:

- 1) Does the route go to a specific destination, like a hunting camp or scenic overlook?
- 2) Is the route part of a favorite driving loop?
- 3) Do you use the route to access climbing or hiking areas?
- 4) Is the route a challenging ATV or 4WD route?

