



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office

Cody Field Office

August 2004



FINAL

McCullough Peaks Travel Management Plan and Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Route Designations



MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

BLM/WY/PL-04/020+8300

ABBREVIATIONS

ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
AO	Authorized Officer
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DR	Decision Record
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FLPMA	Federal Lands Policy and Management Act
FONSI	Finding Of No Significant Impact
FR	Federal Register
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HAMP	Herd Area Management Plan
HMA	Herd Management Area
IMP	Interim Management Policy (for Lands under Wilderness Review)
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
R/W	Right of Way
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
TMP	Travel Management Plan
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

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Introduction

Off Road Vehicle (ORV) recreation is becoming more popular and the public is increasingly looking to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered public lands throughout the west for ORV recreation and a variety of other recreation opportunities. This trend is expected to continue locally as population and tourism within the BLM Cody Field Office area continues to increase. In addition, advancements in technology have allowed increasing motorized access to previously inaccessible areas. Management of ORVs on BLM-managed public lands is necessary to address public and administrative access needs, protect resources, promote public safety, and minimize conflicts among the various uses of public lands.

For many years the term “off-highway vehicle” (OHV) has been used by the public, industry, and the BLM interchangeably with the term “off-road vehicle” (ORV). The term “off-road vehicle” has a legally established definition in the Presidential Executive Orders and the BLM’s related 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8340. Since this plan is part of the land use planning process, the term “off-road vehicle” (ORV) will be used.

Background Information

All BLM-managed public lands have ORV designations, in accordance with 43 CFR 8340 – Off Road Vehicles. The designation categories (as described in 43 CFR 8340.0-5 Definitions) include:

1. open – “...an area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, anywhere in the area subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards...”
2. limited – “...an area restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be accommodated within the following type of categories: Numbers of vehicles; types of vehicles; time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; use on designated roads and trails; and other restrictions.”
3. closed – “...an area where off-road vehicle use is prohibited. Use of off-road vehicles in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons; however, such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorized officer.

The ORV designation decisions for the Cody Field Office were made in the Cody Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 1990 and in the amendment to the Cody RMP in 2000. The ORV management objective identified in the RMP is:

“To maintain or enhance opportunities for Off Road Vehicle Use while protecting or avoiding adverse effects of vehicular travel on other resource values.”

All BLM-managed public lands in the Cody Field Office area fall within one of the ORV categories of open, limited, or closed (Cody RMP map 9, pg. 31). These categories can only be changed through the land use planning process by amendment or revision of the RMP. The designation decisions are implemented on the ground through site-specific planning efforts, subsequent to completion of the RMP.

The ORV designation in the 119,839 acre McCullough Peaks travel management planning area is “limited to designated roads and trails.” This designation decision was determined during the RMP planning process through an assessment of the resource values related to roads, trails and ORV travel. The designation is intended to minimize impact to fragile soils and Class II visual resources and is consistent with the special management designations in the area, including the McCullough Peaks Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the McCullough Peaks Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA).

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the McCullough Peaks Travel Management Plan is to define and document a specific course of action necessary to implement the ORV designation decision of, “limited to designated roads and trails” in the McCullough Peaks area. The plan outlines on-the-ground actions and guidance that will facilitate an effective implementation process. The McCullough Peaks area has been identified as a priority for implementation of the ORV designation decisions due to the special management designations (WSA, HMA), previous agreements related to a land exchange, and increasing recreation use and public interest.

In 1994 the Carter Mountain/McCullough Peaks land exchange was finalized, resulting in ownership boundary adjustments in the McCullough Peaks area. This exchange facilitated construction of a route across public land, which connected BLM Road #1218 with BLM Road #1212, the route is now referred to as McCullough Peaks Road #1212. During the land exchange process, BLM committed to implement the ORV designations as a means to assist in reducing trespass on private land.

In 2001, the National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use on Public Lands was completed, and in 2002, the National Mountain Bicycling Strategic Action Plan was completed. The two strategies provide national guidance and have emphasized travel management as a priority for all BLM Field Offices. This priority was recently re-emphasized by “The BLM’s Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services” that was completed in May of 2003.

The McCullough Peaks Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) and an associated Decision Record (DR) will implement the Cody RMP ORV decisions by identifying, analyzing, and designating specific routes open for travel and approving the implementation actions outlined in this travel management plan.

Planning Area Description

The McCullough Peaks area is located northeast of Cody and southwest of Powell, Wyoming. The 119,839 acre planning area is bordered on the north by Park County Lanes 13 and 14, on the south by U.S. Highway 14-16-20, on the east by BLM Road #1213, the Whistle Creek Road, and on the west by the Shoshone River and Park County Road 3EX, the Sage Creek Road. Map 1: McCullough Peaks Travel Management Plan Area shows the location of the planning area in relationship to the BLM Cody Field Office area.

Roads and Trails

An inventory of the roads and trails in the planning area was recently completed using GPS/GIS technology, aerial photos, and historic information. Map 2: The McCullough Peaks ORV Management Plan Area Draft Road Use Recommendations represents all routes known to exist as of August 2003. For the purposes of this plan, roads, trails and vehicle ways will be referred to as routes.

The inventory map represents the following route types:

- Gravel Road: Road that is regularly maintained and has a gravel surface.
- Graded Dirt Road: Road that was constructed by mechanical means, may or may not be regularly maintained.
- Two-track Trail: Route that was created and maintained by the passage of vehicles, vegetation is present between two tracks.
- ATV: Route that is not suitable for full size vehicles, generally steep and narrow routes. All of the ATV routes identified in the planning area were previously Graded Dirt Roads or Two-tracks.
- Reclaimed: Route that is naturally revegetating and no longer in use.
- Vehicle Ways: A trace maintained solely by the passage of vehicles which has not been improved and/or maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use (H-8550-1 – Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review, Glossary, page 5).

Some routes in remote areas may exist that are not represented. The public open house meeting and scoping period provided the opportunity to identify routes the public is currently using that may have been overlooked during the inventory process. The review and comment period for the draft plan provided an additional opportunity for route identification. Upon completion of this plan, a decision record will approve the official McCullough Peaks Travel Management Map showing the designated network of routes. Any modifications or additions would be addressed through the appropriate level of NEPA analysis as specified in the implementation section of this plan.

The BLM transportation system identifies primary roads on BLM-managed public land with BLM road numbers. BLM system roads have maintenance schedules and are subject to BLM road standards. There are four BLM system roads within the planning area: McCullough Peaks Road #1212, Whistle Creek Road # 1213, Whistle Creek Road

#1213 Spur A, and Willwood Dam Road # 1211. Routes that are not identified as BLM system roads are available for use based on the ORV designation decisions in the area, but do not receive regular maintenance.

Wilderness Study Area

The McCullough Peaks WSA was established in 1980 and includes 24,570 acres of BLM-managed public land located in the northwest portion of the travel management planning area. The WSA was studied under section 603 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and was determined to possess wilderness characteristics of naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation and other special values as set forth in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The area was included in the Grass Creek/Cody Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), August 1990. The Wyoming Statewide Wilderness Study Report, Wilderness Study Area Specific Recommendations, a report completed in September 1991 recommended 8,020 of these acres for designation as Wilderness. The Interim Management Policy (IMP) for Lands under Wilderness Review (BLM Handbook H-8550-1) guides management of the WSA pending a decision by Congress to designate these lands as Wilderness or release them for other purposes. In accordance with the IMP, these lands are managed in a manner so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness. Based on the IMP, motorized and mechanized travel on vehicle ways that existed at the time of the WSA inventory may be allowed as long as use of the routes does not impair wilderness suitability (See Map 5).

The decision to allow motorized vehicle use of existing ways in the WSA was analyzed in the Grass Creek / Cody Wilderness EIS (p. 58) and documented in the Wyoming Statewide Wilderness Study Report (p. 51).

“Recreational ORV use would be allowed on approximately 20 miles of designated vehicle routes in the WSA.”

This is a unique area of rugged badlands with elevations ranging from 4,000 to 6,400 feet. The area offers opportunities for primitive, non-motorized recreation and outstanding opportunities for solitude. Prior to this implementation process, travel in the WSA was allowed on all existing vehicle ways. There is one identified cherry-stem road along Deer Creek, meaning that the WSA boundary excludes the road itself for approximately one and three quarters miles from the BLM boundary (T. 54 N., R. 100 W., Sec. 7) to a reservoir (T. 54 N., R. 100 W., Sec. 24). Monitoring has shown the beginnings of illegal ORV use in the area such as ATV hill climbing and vehicle travel in drainages. Designation of travel routes is necessary to ensure that this off-route travel does not continue to increase, leading to the establishment of new routes, or impairing the suitability of the area for designation as wilderness.

Wild Horse Herd Management Area

The HMA includes 109,814 acres of BLM-managed public land. A portion of the HMA is within the travel management planning area. Management of the HMA is guided by the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971, as amended, and the McCullough Peaks Wild Horse Herd Area Management Plan (1985).

The wild horse management objective in the Cody RMP is to:

“maintain the free-roaming nature of wild horses in a thriving ecological balance and to provide opportunity for the public to view wild horses.”

Recreation

The location of the McCullough Peaks area, in close proximity to the communities of Cody and Powell, makes it ideal for a wide variety of recreational activities. Popular activities include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, ATV driving, hunting, fishing, rock hounding, photography and study of the area archeology and history. The public and commercial outfitters use the area for big game, small game, and bird hunting. In addition to the general public, there are Special Recreation Permits that authorize commercial guided, recreational activities in the McCullough Peaks area.

Other Uses

The area roads are used by ranchers, grazing permittees, public recreationists, Park County, BLM, utility companies, private landowners, and companies with communication towers, pipelines, power lines, and associated rights-of-way in the area.

Goals and Objectives

- Provide access for a wide variety of recreational activities on public lands.
- Provide administrative, commercial, and private land access where necessary.
- Discourage and reduce trespass on adjacent private lands.
- Protect and restore resource values and prevent the creation of new, unauthorized routes, especially in the Wilderness Study Area.
- Provide clear information to facilitate compliance with route designations.
- Identify future planning needs and opportunities related to travel management.

Criteria

Cody Field Office – Criteria for Consideration of Route Designations

Routes that provide access to existing rights with access needs such as rights-of-way (R/W), easements, private land, state land, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) land, etc.

Routes that provide known access needs for maintenance of range improvements, law enforcement, commercial operations, or other administrative activities.

Routes identified on the BLM transportation system.

Routes that provide access to large blocks of BLM administered public land or serve as important connecting routes.

Routes that provide access for recreational activities or unique motorized recreational opportunities for both public and commercial activities (opportunities may include wild horse, wildlife and scenery viewing, scenic lookout points, hunting, ORV driving, etc).

Cody Field Office – Criteria for Consideration of Route Closures

Routes causing unacceptable resource damage, erosion, or route proliferation that are not manageable. (i.e.: wash outs, deep ruts, detours)

Routes through soils that are easily damaged, riparian areas, or areas highly susceptible to resource damage.

Multiple routes to the same location.

Routes that are naturally re-vegetating, are no longer used, or are no longer physically present.

Routes that have a high potential to negatively affect T&E or sensitive wildlife species or limited and important wildlife habitat. Routes that have a high potential to encourage harassment or disruption to wild horses or wildlife.

Routes that are determined to pose a safety hazard to the public.

Routes causing conflict between motorized and non-motorized recreation, consider routes within the semi-primitive non-motorized segment of the planning area.

Vehicle ways that are located within the Wilderness Study Area (WSA), but are not shown on the WSA inventory map (unauthorized or illegal routes).

Routes which may adversely affect areas of cultural or religious concern for Native Americans.

Routes which may be adversely affecting sites which may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Action Items

Maps

Objective: Produce an official travel management map to document route designations.

- An official McCullough Peaks Travel Management Map will identify the designated routes. The official map will be based on Map 2: McCullough Peaks ORV Management Plan Area Draft Road Use Recommendations. The map will be created using Arcmap and GIS technology. Routes will be designated as follows:

Open - routes will be designated as open for motorized vehicle use.

ATV and Non-Motorized Use Only – routes will be limited to ATVs such as four wheelers and motorcycles. These routes will be closed to full size motorized vehicles. The routes will begin at adequate turn-around/unloading points that will need to be determined on-the-ground during implementation.

Administrative Use Only – routes will be limited to authorized vehicles only for purposes such as accessing private land, administering grazing allotments, or conducting maintenance or installation of range improvements. Administrative use authorizations are granted on a case-by-case basis with approval from the BLM authorized officer.

Closed – routes will be closed to all motorized vehicle use. Where appropriate, these routes will be obliterated through reclamation efforts, others will be left to natural re-vegetation. Routes not specifically designated for use on the official travel management map will be closed to vehicle travel.

Non-Motorized Travel - hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding will be allowed on all designated routes including “Open”, “ATV and Non-Motorized Use Only”, and “Administrative Use Only”, and on existing routes that are “Closed” to motorized vehicles, but have not been physically reclaimed. All forms of travel will be restricted from “Closed” routes or the portions of “Closed” routes that are physically obliterated by reclamation efforts such as re-contouring and re-seeding until reclamation

is complete and all signs are removed. Non-motorized travel will be allowed cross-country if the use does not result in the creation of new routes or otherwise cause resource damage.

Within the WSA mountain biking will be allowed on boundary roads and designated ways. Other forms of non-motorized travel (hiking and horseback riding) will be allowed cross country if the use does not result in the creation of new routes or otherwise cause resource damage.

Non-motorized use will be managed in accordance with 43 CFR 8364 – Closures and Restrictions and 43 CFR 8365 – Rules of Conduct.

Over-the-Snow Vehicles – Use of motorized vehicles for travel over-the-snow would be subject to the same requirements and limitations as all other vehicles, and subject to the route designations, as specified in this plan.

- ❑ Identify all BLM system roads with assigned BLM road numbers. Submit any necessary updates or changes to the Worland Field Office for revision of the system road inventory.
- ❑ The official McCullough Peaks Travel Management Map will be provided to the BLM Wyoming State Office for inclusion in future revisions or reprints of the 1:100,000 land status maps.
- ❑ The official map will be displayed at the BLM Cody Field Office and copies will be provided to local agencies and organizations that provide information to the public, such as the Forest Service, Game and Fish, Chamber of Commerce, Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center, and others as necessary.
- ❑ A handout with the official map will be produced for distribution to the public and will be posted on the BLM Cody Field Office website. Refer to the Education and Information section below.
- ❑ The official map will be updated as necessary to reflect any modifications or additions, as described in the Implementation section below.
- ❑ Information about the route designations, signs and markers will be incorporated into the Wyoming State ORV Program Maps as they are produced.

Signs and Markers

Objective: Identify the designated routes on-the-ground in a clear and consistent manner to facilitate compliance and enforcement of the route designations.

Note: Sign design, color, and placement will be considered to reduce potential impacts to visual resources. As compliance with route designations increases, and some signs are found to be unnecessary, the signs will be removed.

- Information signs will be placed at each main entry point onto BLM-managed public lands in the McCullough Peaks area, as shown on MAP 3: Sign Locations. The information signs will include a map of the area showing the designated routes and an explanation of the route marker system. Information will be incorporated to explain the importance of ORV designations and their link to protecting and restoring resource values such as: reducing soil erosion, reducing weed spread, improving water quality and improving wildlife habitat. Each sign will also provide tips for low impact ORV use and outdoor ethics, such as the principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly!
- Information signs will be placed at each main entry point into the WSA, as shown on MAP 3: Sign Locations. The signs will include an explanation of the WSA designation and reminder of the ORV designation, “limited to designated routes”.
- Route designations will be marked with brown flexible markers with standard decals as follows:
 - Designated “Open” routes will be marked with “Designated Route” or white arrow decals at intersections and periodically along the route as necessary to indicate routes that are open for vehicle travel.
 - “ATV and Non-Motorized Use Only” routes will be marked with standard ATV symbol decals, indicating that the route is closed to full size vehicles.
 - “Administrative Use Only” routes will be marked with standard “Administrative Vehicles Only” decals.
 - Closed routes will be marked with “No Motor Vehicle” or “Route Closed” decals with standard vehicle symbols. As closed routes heal through natural re-vegetation or reclamation efforts, and markers are no longer necessary, they will be removed. Closed route markers will remain where necessary for resource protection or public safety.
- Where there is a potential for an open route to be extended past its current end point by vehicle travel, “Motorized Route Ends” decals may be used.
- “Entering and Leaving Public Land” and “Private Land Ahead” markers will be placed where necessary along the boundary of public land as shown on

MAP 3: Sign Locations. Placement of additional markers may be considered at the request of private landowners.

Education and Information

Objective: Provide clear and consistent information related to the route designations and the implementation process that will help ensure public understanding and compliance with the designations.

- ❑ A one page, double sided handout showing the route designations and other travel management information will be developed and disseminated to the public. The handout will include information related to low impact ORV use, protection and restoration of resource values, prevention of spreading noxious weeds, and outdoor ethics, such as the principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly!
- ❑ News releases will be prepared for key phases of the travel management planning and implementation process, to be published in local newspapers and posted on the BLM website.

Barriers

Objective: Use physical barriers, if necessary, to discourage use and allow rehabilitation of closed routes.

- ❑ Natural barriers would include soil berms, rocks or boulders, or vegetation placed to prevent travel on closed routes.
- ❑ Fences and gates may be used where natural barriers are not feasible or effective, or where occasional administrative travel may be required on “Administrative Use Only” routes.
- ❑ Gates on “Administrative Use Only” routes may be locked if determined to be necessary by the authorized officer.

Rehabilitation

Objective: Apply rehabilitation techniques to closed routes, where necessary to speed the healing process, discourage use of closed routes, and minimize the impact on visual resources.

- ❑ Rehabilitation actions will be determined according to the following options:
 1. Leave route to natural re-vegetation, route is not currently visible, no need to sign.
 2. Sign route and leave to natural re-vegetation.

3. Sign route and reclaim the portion of the route that is visible from all intersections with open routes.
 4. Sign route and reclaim the entire route.
- Seeding will be done where necessary to aid rehabilitation of closed routes. Appropriate seed mixtures will be selected for each site based on individual site conditions. Native species only are allowed for reclamation within the WSA. Seed mixtures would be selected from native species that would include but not be limited to:

Species

western wheatgrass	needle-and-thread grass
bluebunch wheatgrass	squirrel tail
Indian ricegrass	winterfat
green needlegrass	bottlebrush
fourwing saltbush	scarlet globe mallow
native vetch	western yarrow
Gardner's saltbush	sainfoin

Recommended reclamation techniques include ripping the road surface with a small dozer to break up compacted soil and allow maximum snow and rainfall retention. Broadcast seeding would generally be done in the fall. After the seed has been distributed uniformly over the area by mechanical broadcasting devices, the ground would be raked or dragged to cover the seed. After the first year, seeded areas would be fertilized if seedling establishment is sparse. Techniques such as hydraulic seeding, seed drilling, mulching, water barring, pitting, roughening, contour furrowing, or similar methods may be used as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

- Recommended reclamation techniques within the WSA would be subject to the IMP. "Reclamation activities designed to minimize impacts to wilderness values created by IMP violations and emergencies" are listed as permitted exceptions to the nonimpairment criteria (H-8550-1 CH I.B.2.). Application of appropriate reclamation techniques within the WSA would be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Weed treatment and control measures would be implemented as needed to promote revegetation with native plants and prevent any new weed establishment and/or control of existing weed sources.

Monitoring

Objective: Identify specific actions, including timeframes, methods, and anticipated resource needs for environmental monitoring.

- Traffic Counters have been in place throughout the McCullough Peaks planning area since March 2002. These counters will be maintained and the traffic counts will continue to be documented for a period of at least one year. This documentation will provide a picture of the overall vehicle travel in the area.
- Cody BLM employees and volunteers will be encouraged to use the ORV Observation report booklets while in the field to document vehicle use and assist in monitoring and compliance.
- Photo-monitoring points will be established in key locations to monitor implementation actions and their effectiveness. Example photo points are: known areas where cross-country travel has occurred, closed routes, rehabilitation projects, known erosion areas, and areas of good road quality for future reference. Photo monitoring points will be documented using GPS and a monitoring schedule will be established.
- The monitoring data collected would be used to assess the effectiveness of the plan and associated implementation actions. Closed routes would be monitored for signs of use, rehabilitated routes will be monitored to determine effectiveness of seeding and water drainage, and the plan area will be monitored for sign conditions. Modifications to the plan would be considered if monitoring indicates that the goals and objectives are not being met.

Enforcement

Objective: Identify specific actions, including timeframes, methods, and anticipated resource needs for compliance and enforcement related to the route designations.

- Law enforcement efforts will be implemented in stages, beginning with warnings and progressing to citations upon full implementation. Emphasis will be placed on self-regulation by user groups.
- Upon full implementation, citations will be as follows:
 - First offense will usually result in a collateral forfeiture citation.
 - Second offense will usually result in a court appearance.
- The McCullough Peaks would be identified as a priority/emphasis area for law enforcement patrol following initial implementation as time and staff allows. Educational efforts would be encouraged by staff conducting field work.

- ❑ Increased patrol would be implemented in areas where monitoring efforts detect non-compliance with route designations.

Maintenance

Objective: Document maintenance standards and needs.

- ❑ The current maintenance standards for each designated route will be documented and modifications will be identified and recommended if necessary.
- ❑ Maintenance of open roads, ways, and trails will be done to minimize soil erosion and other resource degradation. This maintenance will be done on a case-by-case basis by requesting assistance from the BLM Worland Field Office zone operations staff.
- ❑ Maintenance procedures and schedules will be developed for signs and markers. This will include anticipated replacement needs. A sign inventory and photo database will be created to facilitate tracking of sign maintenance.
- ❑ Maintenance procedures for physical barriers will be developed.
- ❑ BLM coordination with Park County Weed and Pest would continue for weed treatment and control efforts.

Implementation

Objective: Implement the action items specified in this plan in a consistent and timely manner.

- ❑ Initial implementation will be in the summer of 2004, with additional signing and rehabilitation completed in subsequent years as funding and workload allow.
- ❑ Implementation of the “signs and markers”, “barriers”, and “rehabilitation” actions identified in this plan will be based on the following priorities, as shown on Map 3: Sign Locations and Map 4: Proposed Rehabilitation Implementation:
 1. Routes leading into private land (phase 1)
 2. Routes within the WSA (phase 2)
 3. All other routes (phase 3)
- ❑ Limited motorized cross-country travel, or exceptions to the route designations on BLM-managed public lands may be allowed for certain permitted uses and administrative uses as defined in 43 CFR 8340.0-5(a).

Such use will be at the discretion of the authorized officer and determined on a case-by-case basis. Authorization for exceptions to the ORV designations for permitted uses will be documented in the respective permit files. Exceptions may also be granted by the authorized officer for certain pre-permit activities (ie: geophysical exploration). Verbal authorizations will be documented in writing. Vehicle use in the WSA is subject to the Interim Management Policy.

- 43 CFR 8340.0-5 Definitions.
 - (a): *Off-road vehicle* means any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding:
 - (1) Any nonamphibious registered motorboat;
 - (2) Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes;
 - (3) Any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved;
 - (4) Vehicles in official use; and
 - (5) Any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.
- Authorized exceptions to the ORV designations would be included as a statement in the appropriate NEPA documentation and in the permit stipulations, identifying the authorized route exceptions or locations of cross country travel.
- Modifications or additions to the route designations would be done through an appropriate level of environmental analysis and NEPA documentation with a statement, “this document amends the travel management plan to include the following described route in the appropriate road use category”.
- Modifications or additions to the route designations may be necessary to address proposals for new routes associated with rights-of-way or other permitted activities on public lands; to address future public access needs, or changing resource concerns; or to address the appropriate management of existing routes that are not represented on the inventory map. Any proposed changes would be subject to review and determination based on the goals and objectives and route selection criteria in this plan.
- Determination of the appropriate route designation and future management responsibilities for any new routes that are authorized would be documented as a condition of issuance of the permit or right-of-way.
- The official Travel Management Map will be updated as needed to reflect any approved modifications or additions. The revised map will be posted in the BLM Cody Field Office and will be available for distribution to the public.

- Additional guidance for management of motorized vehicles on BLM-managed public lands is available in the Wyoming BLM's ORV Policy Statement of February 1984. That document will be replaced with the Wyoming Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Strategy upon its completion.

Specific Projects

Objective: Throughout this planning process, potential travel and access related projects were identified. The objective of this section of the plan is to document the projects to be implemented with this plan and the ideas for future consideration through the appropriate planning processes.

Projects to be implemented upon approval of this plan:

- Pursue funding for implementation of this plan through the BLM Budget Planning System.
- Pursue opportunities to involve volunteers and local clubs in implementation efforts; consider holding volunteer special events in the area to emphasize education and self regulation of recreation groups.
- Improve a vehicle turn around point (T. 53 N. R. 98 W. Sec. 34) on the Whistle Creek Road BLM Road # 1213 to enhance visitor safety and wild horse viewing opportunities. The turn around point would be constructed during regular road maintenance conducted by the BLM Worland Field Office zone operations staff. An area approximately 55 feet by 120 feet would be bladed to create a level parking and turn around area designed for vehicles to pull into and then back out. Appropriate runoff and erosion control measures would be incorporated.
- Develop an interpretive sign for the vehicle turn around location on the Whistle Creek Road BLM Road #1213.

Project ideas for future consideration:

- Coordinate with Equity Oil Company to authorize the locked gate in the following location (T. 54 N., R. 100 W. Sec. 21).
- Re-route the road to the communication towers (T. 53 N., R. 100 W., Sec. 12) to improve the road grade. Add this road to the BLM transportation system to receive regular maintenance. Consider the need for a locked gate in this location.

- ❑ During the upcoming revision of the Cody RMP, consider the need to expand the “limited to designated roads and trails” designation to include BLM administered public land east of BLM Road #1213, the Whistle Creek road and west of U.S. Highway 32.
- ❑ During the revision of the Cody RMP, consider opportunities to designate one or more ORV “open areas” within the Cody Field Office Area.
- ❑ Pursue a wild horse viewing interpretive site located in T. 52 N., R. 98 W. Sec. 18 SE1/4 (former gravel pit). This would provide an easily accessible viewing location along U.S. Highway 14-16-20 and would address safety concerns with traffic congestion along the highway; this is a possible Challenge Cost Share budget proposal.
- ❑ Consider the need for additional locations for interpretive sites, vehicle turn around areas, wild horse viewing areas, and trailheads for motorized uses.
- ❑ Pursue easements across private land where necessary to ensure future public access to the McCullough Peaks area.
- ❑ Coordinate with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department regarding potential river access points along the east bank of the Shoshone River.
- ❑ Consider the need for development of trails or trailheads in the planning area for non-motorized uses such as hiking, horseback riding, or mountain bicycling.

Maps

Map 1: McCullough Peaks Travel Management Plan Area

Map 2: McCullough Peaks ORV Management Plan Area Draft Road Use
Recommendations

Map 3: Sign Locations

Map 4: Proposed Rehabilitation Implementation

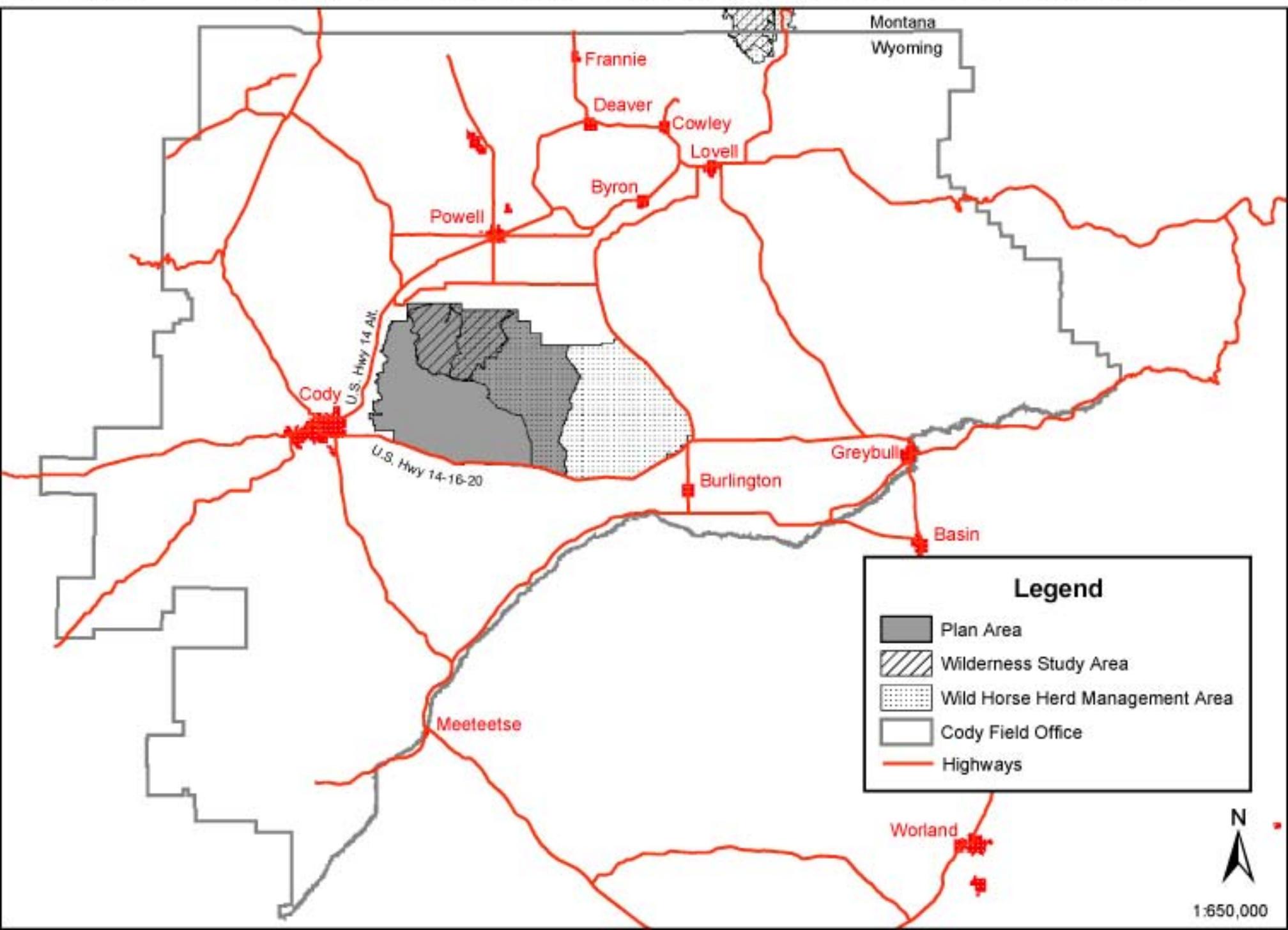
Map 5: Wilderness Study Area Inventory

Map 6: Comparison of WSA Inventory with 2003 GIS Inventory

Map 7: Final McCullough Peaks Travel Management Map



Map 1: McCullough Peaks Travel Management Plan Area

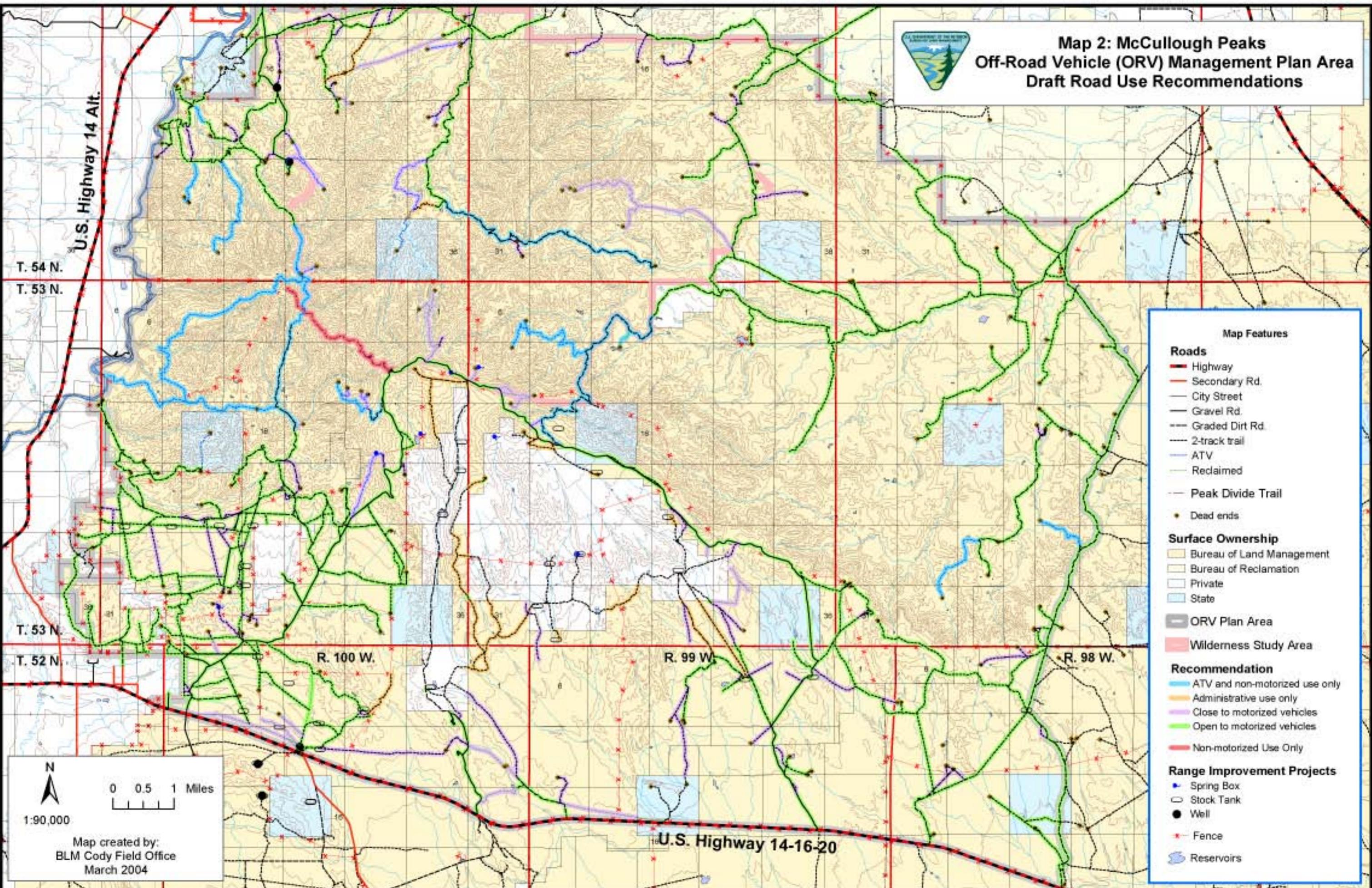


Legend

- Plan Area
- Wilderness Study Area
- Wild Horse Herd Management Area
- Cody Field Office
- Highways



Map 2: McCullough Peaks Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan Area Draft Road Use Recommendations



Map Features

Roads

- Highway
- Secondary Rd.
- City Street
- Gravel Rd.
- Graded Dirt Rd.
- 2-track trail
- ATV
- Reclaimed
- Peak Divide Trail
- Dead ends

Surface Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Private
- State

ORV Plan Area

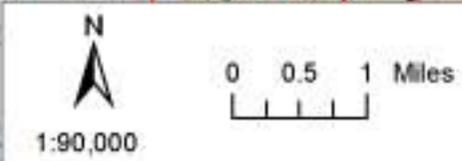
Wilderness Study Area

Recommendation

- ATV and non-motorized use only
- Administrative use only
- Close to motorized vehicles
- Open to motorized vehicles
- Non-motorized Use Only

Range Improvement Projects

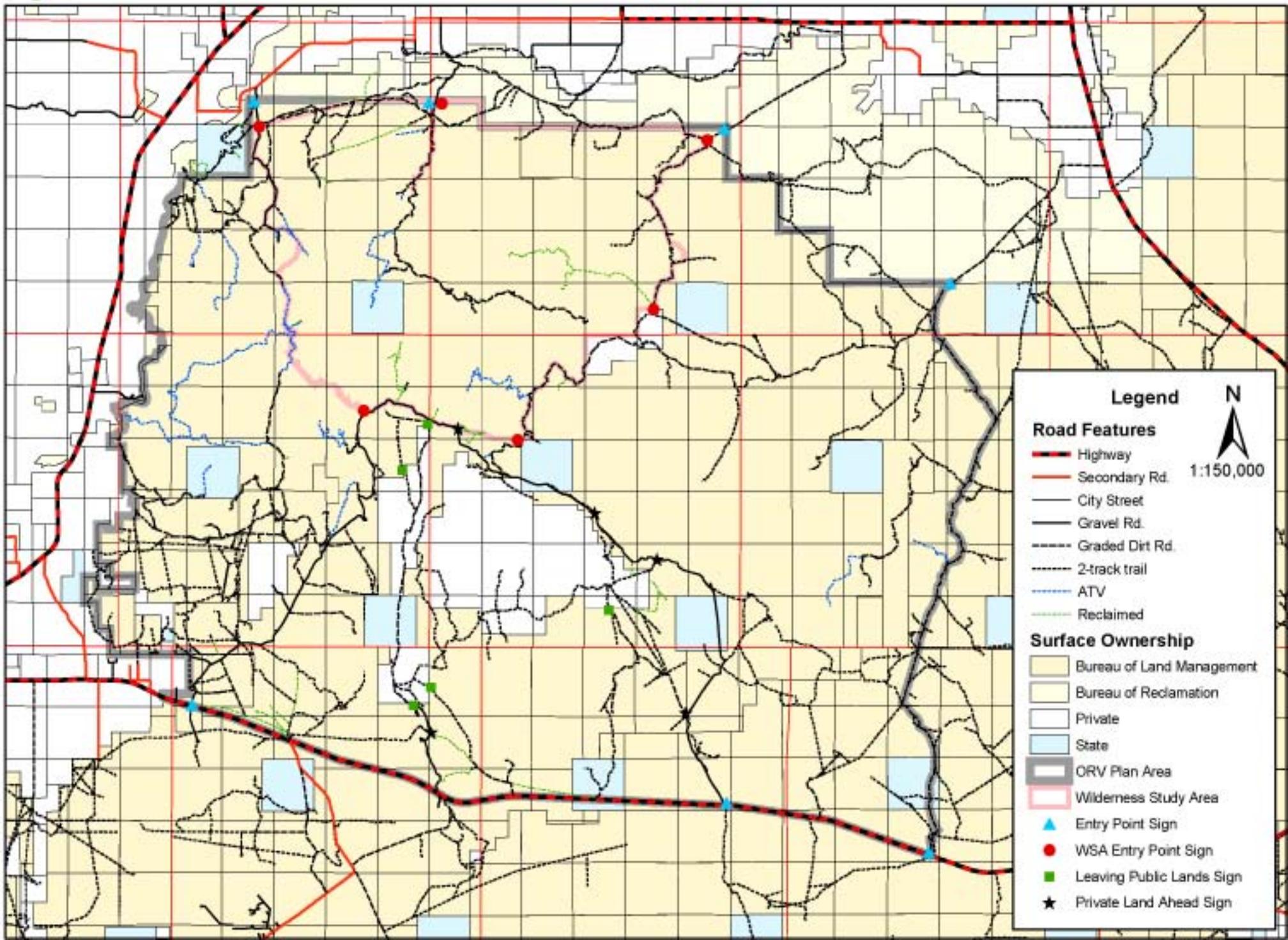
- Spring Box
- Stock Tank
- Well
- Fence
- Reservoirs



Map created by:
BLM Cody Field Office
March 2004



Map 3: Sign Locations



Legend

Road Features

- Highway
- Secondary Rd.
- City Street
- Gravel Rd.
- Graded Dirt Rd.
- 2-track trail
- ATV
- Reclaimed

Surface Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Private
- State
- ORV Plan Area
- Wilderness Study Area

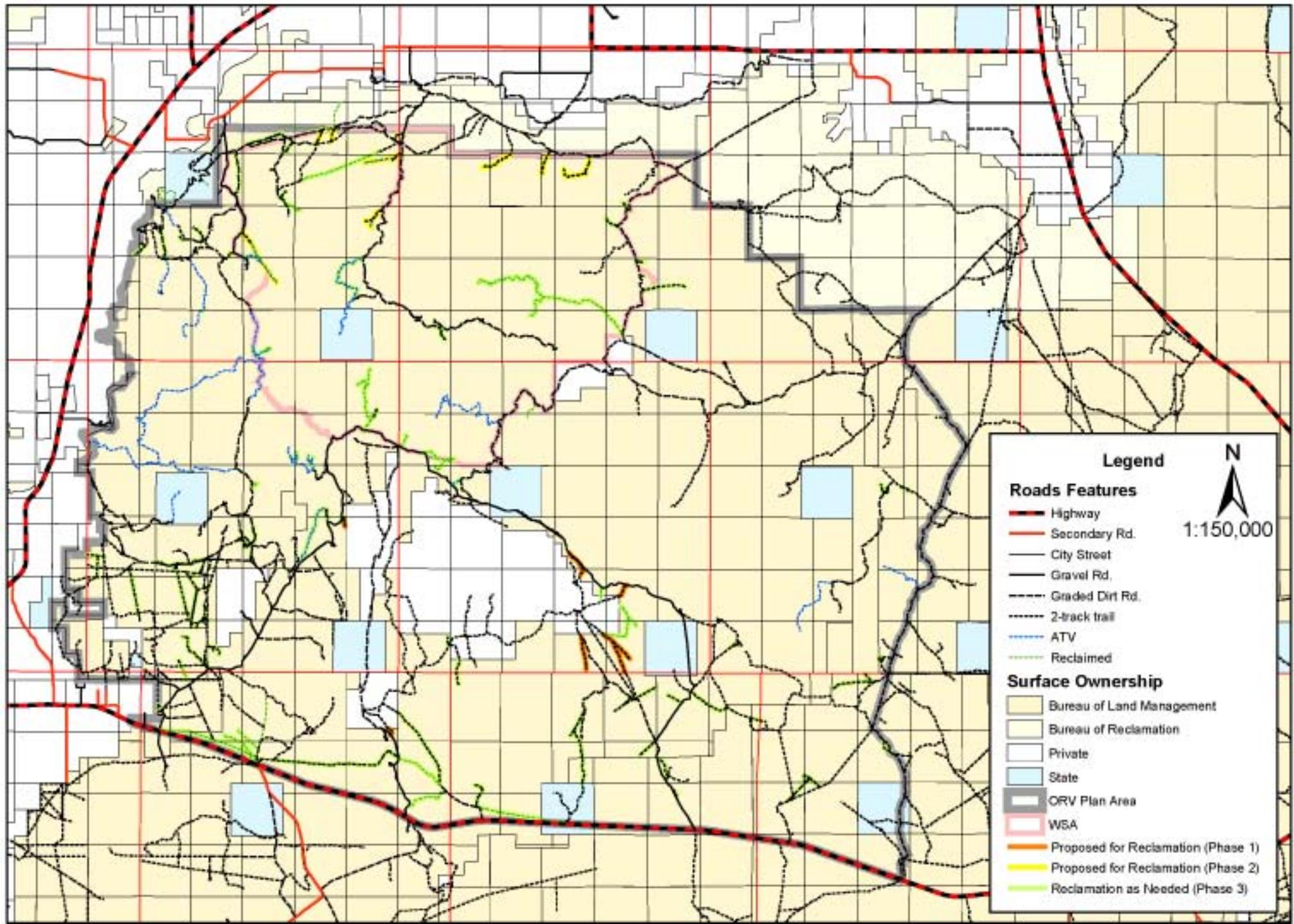
Signs

- Entry Point Sign
- WSA Entry Point Sign
- Leaving Public Lands Sign
- Private Land Ahead Sign

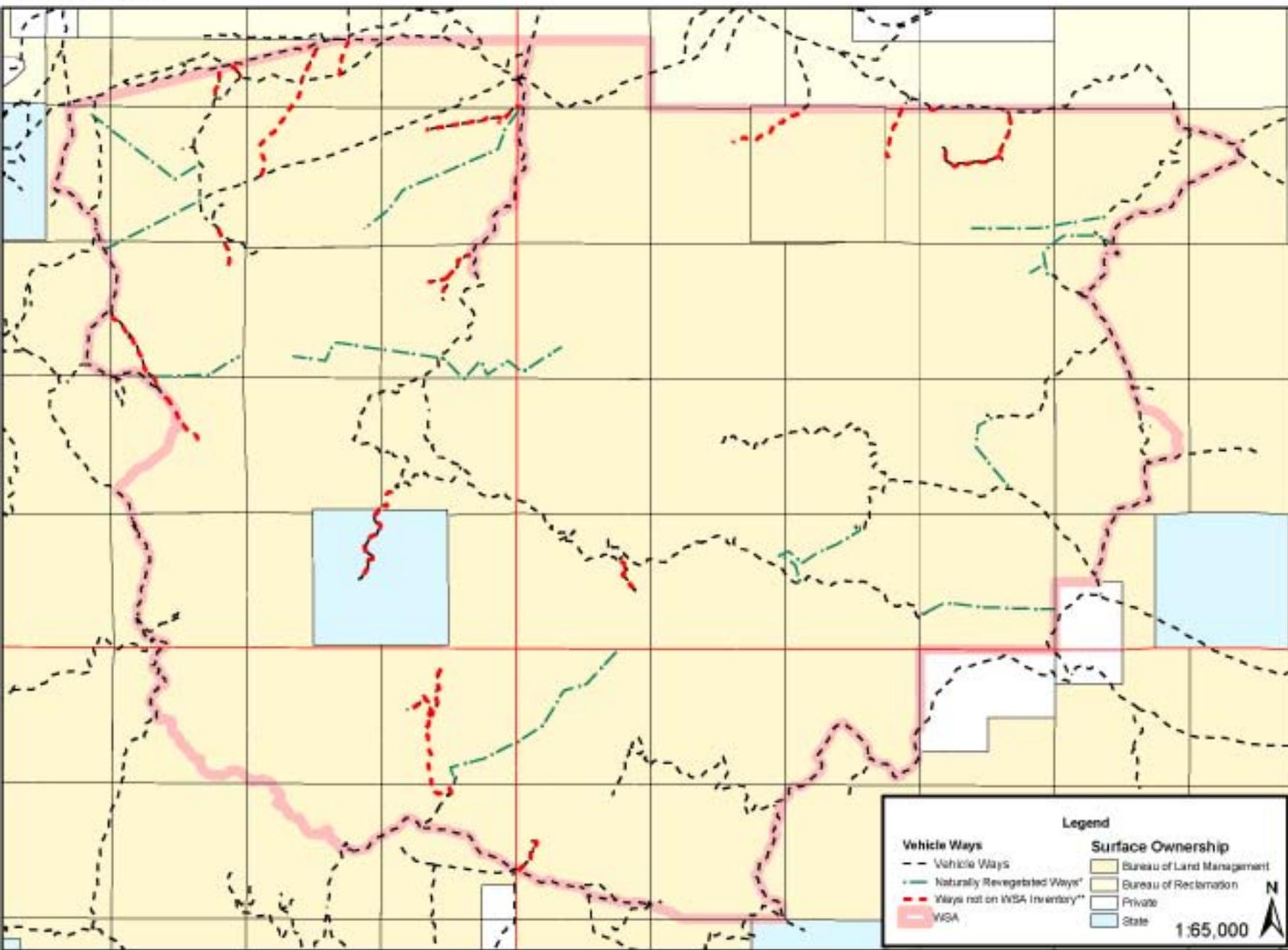
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Map 4: Proposed Rehabilitation Implementation



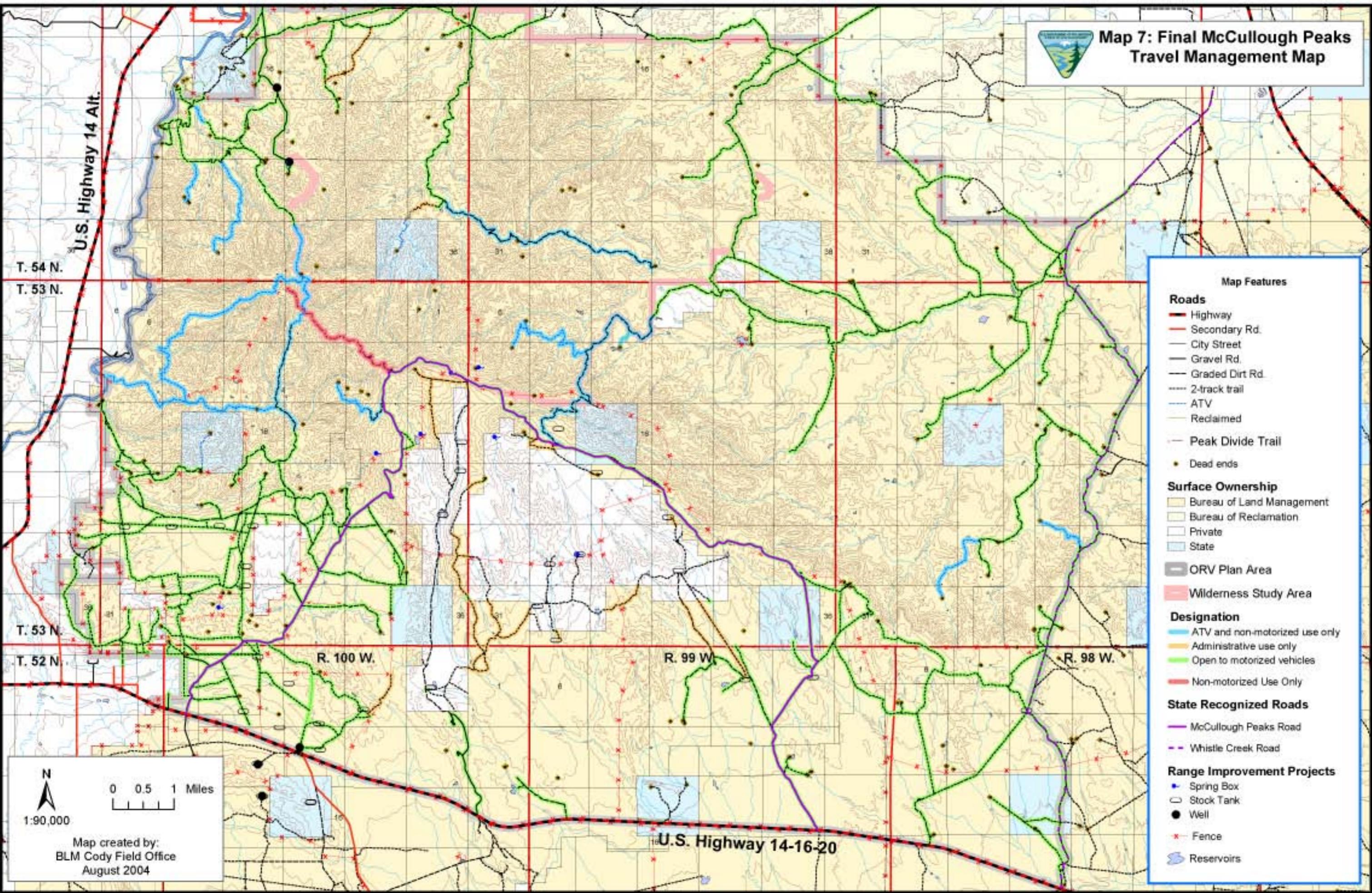
Map 6: Comparison of WSA Inventory with 2003 GIS Route Inventory



* Naturally Revegetated Ways are routes that were identified on the WSA inventory (Map 5) but can no longer be located on-the-ground due to natural revegetation.

** Ways not on WSA Inventory are routes that were not identified on the WSA inventory (Map 5) but are present on-the-ground.

 **Map 7: Final McCullough Peaks Travel Management Map**



Map Features

Roads

- Highway
- Secondary Rd.
- City Street
- Gravel Rd.
- Graded Dirt Rd.
- 2-track trail
- ATV
- Reclaimed
- Peak Divide Trail
- Dead ends

Surface Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Private
- State

ORV Plan Area

Wilderness Study Area

Designation

- ATV and non-motorized use only
- Administrative use only
- Open to motorized vehicles
- Non-motorized Use Only

State Recognized Roads

- McCullough Peaks Road
- Whistle Creek Road

Range Improvement Projects

- Spring Box
- Stock Tank
- Well
- Fence
- Reservoirs

N
0 0.5 1 Miles
1:90,000
Map created by:
BLM Cody Field Office
August 2004