

Tenderfoot Mountain Motorcycle Trail System Proactive and Adaptive Management Plan Final Draft - June 20, 2013

Note that the following proactive and adaptive management plan was developed by and for the Tenderfoot Task Force. This living document forms the basis for the Task Force's charge.

Management Category	Desired Conditions	Proactive Recommendations	Monitoring Protocol	Thresholds Triggering Management Action	Management Actions
Access Management and Trailhead Parking	<p>Parking occurs only in designated parking areas (Frey Gulch and Straight Creek Trailheads).</p> <p>The Frey Gulch Trailhead is designed to allow for easy ingress and egress. The parking lot is large enough to accommodate an average of 20 riders per day and include additional spaces for non-motorized users.</p> <p>Parking and staging does not occur in locations away from trailhead (e.g. along Landfill Road, Frey Gulch Road or Straight Creek Road)</p>	<p>Signs will be placed on information kiosks at both trailheads that encourage trail users to park only in designated parking areas. The signs will also indicate the location of the alternate trailhead and parking area to be used when a parking lot is full. In instances when both parking lots are full, users will be encouraged to contact or visit the Dillon Ranger District office for recommendations of other areas to ride. Boxes with MVUMs (Motor Vehicle Use Maps) and trail maps will be available at both trailheads.</p> <p>Carpooling will be encouraged during volunteer workdays or other group activities.</p>	<p>The Maintenance / Patrol Crew will routinely monitor, document and report trailhead conditions including, but not limited to:</p> <p>The number of vehicles using the parking lot</p> <p>The number of vehicles parked on nearby roads when the parking lot is full.</p> <p>Vehicles blocking entrance or exit or otherwise obstructing traffic flow.</p> <p>Vehicle accidents.</p>	<p>Parking capacity is exceeded as defined by monitoring protocols 2-4 more than 10 days/season at either trailhead, or less at Forest Service discretion.</p>	<p>"No Parking" signs will be installed along the roads leading up to the parking areas</p> <p>A special order from the Forest Service may be initiated which officially prohibits parking on the roads.</p> <p>The parking lots may be expanded as contemplated in the proposed action.</p>
Frey Gulch Toilet and Waste Facilities	<p>Trailhead and surrounding areas are free of human waste and trash.</p>	<p>There will be educational materials on kiosk about pack in/pack out trash.</p>	<p>Once per week the Maintenance/Patrol Crew will monitor and document human waste incidents within 200 feet of the trailhead. All evidence of an incident will be removed immediately so that it is not counted again. An annual summary report will be produced at the end of each</p>	<p>More than 16 incidents per year, or less at Forest Service discretion.</p>	<p>If human waste incidents exceed 16/year for the first year, all educational materials will be updated to include information on human waste at trailhead. If after two years there are still 16 incidents/year, a toilet facility will be constructed at the trailhead.</p>

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			riding season.		It will be cleaned and maintained by the Maintenance / Patrol Crew.
Off-trail Use and Use of Closed Routes	<p>Motorcycles, ATVs and mountain bikes do not travel off designated routes.</p> <p>Closed routes are not being used.</p>	<p>There will be signs at each trailhead and on brochures and websites encouraging users to stay on designated trails. All informational materials will include a phone number that allows any individual to report violations to the Forest Service.</p> <p>At least 12 patrols per month during the riding season (ideally three per week) will be conducted by the Maintenance Patrol crew, other District FPOs, and SCORR volunteers. If evidence of off-trail use or use of closed routes is observed or reported, a 5300-1 (Incident Report) will be completed. Monthly reports summarizing the location and number of off-trail incidents will be documented.</p>	<p>A reportable incident will be defined as a first person observation or clear evidence on the ground (e.g. tire tracks).</p> <p>Areas where there are reoccurring violations will be identified, and documented and monitored more frequently to discourage continued use.</p>	<p>When an incident of off-trail use, or use of closed routes, is observed all evidence of such use will be obliterated ASAP, and no later than within two weeks. If use continues, signs will be posted. Areas requiring more substantial rehabilitation efforts will occur no later than October 15 each season.</p> <p>If incidents of illegal use reoccur at the same location, or multiple locations, more than 5 times per month, patrols will be increased by one day per week. If problems persist, additional patrols will be added until such problems are contained. If problems are consistently observed at specific locations, or on specific trails, and increased patrols are unable to contain the problem, the trail(s) in question may be closed.</p> <p>If chronic illegal off-trail use or use of closed trails occurs (5 or more times per month for 4 months), the entire trail system or substantial portions of it may be subject to closure. Closures will remain in effect until a new management strategy can be developed and implemented to deal with off-trail incidents.</p> <p>The number of off-trail incidents should steadily decrease as the trail system ages. If a trend toward fewer off trail incidents is not observed, reevaluation and additional actions will be considered including possible trail closures.</p>	
Revegetation of Routes Identified For Closure	Closed trails are revegetated to a natural state and are free of noxious and invasive species.	Physical closure and scarification should result in natural revegetation.	The closed trails will be monitored by the Maintenance/Patrol Crew for successful revegetation and noxious weeds starting two years after closure.	Less than 75% of revegetation coverage or consistent with adjacent natural areas.	If revegetation is not occurring naturally, then seeding with only native grass and shrub mix will occur the following fall. Closure of trails will occur

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	Drainage is adequate with no erosion.		Revegetation will be considered successful if there is at least 75% vegetation coverage consistent with adjacent vegetation after 24 months. Representative samples will be taken on the trail length to determine the amount of revegetation.		with placing debris, signs, and drainage structures as well as scarification as needed to break up the soil. Noxious weed management will be performed by the district weed specialist if monitoring identifies the presence of noxious weeds.
Signs and Infrastructure	All signs and infrastructure continue to function as intended, remain in the locations they were placed and are maintained in good working condition.	All signs and other necessary infrastructure will be installed before trails are opened. SCORR will work with USFS to replace damaged or missing signs. The Dillon Ranger District phone number will be posted at the kiosk to report trail system issues.	Sign location waypoints will be established using GPS and infrastructure monitored. Maintenance/Patrol Crews will continually monitor all signs and other infrastructure.	Chronic vandalism or theft in localized areas.	Missing or damaged signs and other infrastructure will be replaced as soon as practical. If chronic vandalism or theft occurs, other actions will be considered.
Dispersed Campsites	Campsites are located sustainably (as measured by compliance and resource damage), and free of litter, substantial vegetation damage, human waste, and smoldering ashes. No camping occurs in or immediately adjacent to parking lots.	Contacts will be made with campers to educate them about expected camping behavior (human waste, litter, campfires, etc.). Guidelines for the Maintenance / Patrol crew will include performing inspections, visitor contacts, litter and human waste pick up, and ash removal at least once per week. "No Camping" signs will be placed at the Frey Gulch trailhead. The existing "no camping" signs located at the Straight Creek trailhead will be maintained.	With each inspection, the campsite will be rated as: Clean, Somewhat Clean, or Unclean. The site is Clean if no litter/human waste pick up is needed. If it takes less than 5 minutes to clean it is "Somewhat Clean." If it takes more than 5 minutes to clean, it is "Unclean."	New campsites created in unsuitable locations, such as within 100 feet of streams or in places creating undesirable resource damage.	Campsites in undesirable locations will be closed and rehabilitated as soon as possible after being discovered, and no longer than within one week. Visitor contacts in all occupied campsites will be increased to once per weekend day and once per weekday. Violation notices will be issued when necessary. If camping in undesirable locations persists, separate

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		<p>All campsites located within 100 feet of streams will be closed.</p> <p>Educational materials will include good camping practices (i.e., trash disposal, campfire safety, sanitation, etc.).</p> <p>Campsites determined to be unsuitable due to potential or existing resource damage, etc. will be closed and rehabilitated.</p>			analysis to limit camping may be considered.
User Conflicts	Riders of OHVs slow down when encountering other users on Frey Gulch Road. The reduction in speed is noticed by the other users. Complaints about excessive speed are rare.	<p>Kiosk and information materials will inform all users to expect to encounter motorized users.</p> <p>The system is patrolled by volunteers, Forest Service and CPW staff as available.</p> <p>SHARE THE ROAD signs are posted on Frey Gulch Road.</p> <p>The Forest Service will determine a cautionary speed limit which will be posted along Frey Gulch Rd.</p> <p>The Forest Service will determine the number of signs needed. Educational materials and visitor contacts will include emphasis on slow speeds on Frey Gulch Road.</p>	<p>The Forest Service will document the number of complaints within the Tenderfoot trails system.</p> <p>The system trails and roads will be patrolled by the Forest Service and volunteer Maintenance / Patrol Crews according to the frequency previously identified in the Education and Enforcement Plan. These crews will document complaints about excessive speeds. Forest Protection officers will issue warnings to riders observed exceeding reasonable speed. Volunteers will provide verbal warnings to riders who are observed exceeding reasonable speed.</p>	More than 5 complaints about excessive speed are received per riding season will trigger a range of potential additional management options as determined appropriate by the Forest Service.	<p>One or more of the following management actions may be implemented, as determined by the Forest Service:</p> <p>Speed bumps may be installed in locations that are subject to habitual speeding if determined to be effective and feasible.</p> <p>Alternating days of use between the various user groups may be instituted.</p> <p>Under separate analysis, determine modified non-motorized routes as an alternative to Frey Gulch road intersections.</p> <p>Install signs identifying “closed throttle” zones where there is shared use</p>

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					near trailheads and in other locations as deemed appropriate.
Noise Impacts	<p>The trail system does not significantly disturb nearby residents and visitors in the area.</p> <p>The trail system does not significantly displace non-motorized users from the existing non-motorized system trails.</p>	<p>Establish “Closed Throttle Zones” in proximity to the trailheads.</p> <p>Where possible, trails should be located in order to use existing natural features and vegetation to reduce noise impacts.</p> <p>The trail system will be closed daily from 8:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m.</p>	The trail system will be monitored and noise complaints will be documented.	Verifiable complaints received by Forest Service during riding season.	<p>Forest Service staff will follow up on all complaints which may include noise testing to determine location of source of noise.</p> <p>More closed throttle zones may be established in areas that have been identified as being highly susceptible to contributing to noise impact on nearby homeowners.</p> <p>Alterations including trail realignments, closures, or other measures may be instituted to reduce noise impacts.</p> <p>Under separate analysis, determine modified non-motorized route for Tenderfoot hiking trail to reduce noise impacts.</p>
Special Events	Special events are small and infrequent.	Special Events will be limited to no more than 50 attendees and no more than two events per season (not including volunteer work/maintenance events) and will be subject to Adaptive Management threshold conditions being met. Events that attract spectators and encourage speed on the trail are strongly discouraged. All special events are subject to	A post-event special use authorization inspection will be done by Forest Service to identify resource impacts or other problems.	Significant resource or other impacts from events.	Special events will be discontinued or further limited if there are substantial adverse impacts, (e.g. resource damage, noise, injuries, etc.).

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		obtaining a special use permit and meeting all applicable NEPA requirements.			
Fire Risk	<p>The area is free of forest fires.</p> <p>All OHVs using the trail system have spark arresters.</p> <p>There are no unattended or abandoned campfires.</p>	<p>Educational information on recommended fire prevention measures should be provided through the educational efforts recommended in the monitoring, education and enforcement section of this Plan.</p> <p>Provide clear signage at the trailheads alerting motorized trail users that spark arresters are required. Trailhead sign information could also include information about what types of bikes do have spark arresters (and that track bikes typically do not).</p>	<p>Patrols will check all OHVs they come in contact with to assure proper spark arresters are in place.</p> <p>The Maintenance / Patrol Crews will constantly monitor the trails and abandoned camp sites for any signs of fire.</p>	Forest fires caused by an OHV or OHV related activity.	<p>Any time there is an elevated fire danger, wildfire risk will be managed via the Fire Restrictions Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More wildfire detection patrols will be conducted - More trail system monitoring and spark arrester enforcement will be put in place - During extreme fire danger, motorized OHV use can be restricted.
Cultural Impacts	No theft or vandalism to any cultural resource	Trails have been aligned in order to provide appropriate separation from cultural sites to the maximum extent possible. In certain instances it may be desirable to provide interpretive signs or maps. The Forest Service will determine where and when such interpretive signs or maps may be acceptable.	The Maintenance/Patrol Crews will routinely monitor significant cultural sites and will document theft or vandalism via an Incident Report.	If cultural sites are impacted by theft or vandalism.	<p>The Forest Service will consider a range of management actions that may include:</p> <p>Trail relocation</p> <p>Additional signage</p> <p>Physical barriers</p> <p>Increased patrols of the location</p>
Deer and Elk Impacts	The trail system does not result in substantial elk displacement or disturbance to elk calving areas.	Extend seasonal motorized use trail closure of east portion of trail system (Management Area 5.43 except for trail segments	Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife and/or Forest Service staff will observe and monitor elk during calving season to	Significant changes in elk behavior, and/or use of historical calving area attributable to motorized use.	Forest Service staff will increase patrols in the area with the assistance of CPW as available.

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	<p>Elk summer-winter movement patterns are maintained.</p> <p>Seasonal motorized trail closures are complied with and enforced as necessary.</p>	<p>46-44-52-42-67-14-72-73) through June 30 to minimize disturbance to wintering deer and elk and to minimize impacts to calving elk.</p> <p>Provide signs about the closure at Frey Gulch and Straight Creek trailheads and connecting points to trail system within closure (42, 53, 59, 37, 34, 33, 32, 38, 49 & 48).</p> <p>Allow for trail maintenance/clearing prior to trail system opening.</p>	<p>identify cow elk calving locations and herd use of entire management area during calving season prior to July 1.</p> <p>CPW will explore the possibility of funding a study to radio-collar and monitor elk in the area.</p> <p>Forest Service staff will monitor compliance with seasonal closures.</p> <p>All violations of the closure will be documented and reported.</p>	<p>Violations in closure area (off-road, closure violations, damage/removal of closure signs) exceed 5/month.</p>	<p>Expand/modify closure area on an as needed basis.</p> <p>Consider expanding closures to include all uses during calving season. This may require additional NEPA.</p>
Hunting	<p>Disturbance to elk is minimal, so that they remain in accessible areas during hunting season.</p> <p>Conflicts between hunters and other users of the trails and roads in the area are minimal.</p>	<p>Close east portion of trail system (Management Area 5.43 except for trail segments 46-44-52-42-67-14-72-73) to motorized uses prior to opening of the first rifle season to allow for hunter access.</p> <p>Closure area will begin October 10. (Rifle season generally opens on the second weekend of October, depending on the year).</p>	<p>CPW will monitor health of the elk population.</p> <p>Forest Service will monitor compliance with seasonal closures.</p> <p>All violations of the closure will be documented and reported.</p>	<p>Violations in closure area (off-road, closure violations, damage/removal of closure signs) exceed 5/month.</p> <p>Decreasing presence of elk in accessible areas during rifle hunting seasons.</p> <p>Overall health of elk population decreases.</p>	<p>Violations will result in increased patrols.</p> <p>Changes in health of elk population attributable to motorized use will result in reconsideration of the closure area to a greater portion or all of the trail system.</p> <p>User conflicts will trigger reconsideration of closure area to a greater portion or all of the trail system.</p>