

ROYAL GORGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

PLAN AMENDMENT

Amendment # 6

Subregion(s): 5

Area of Change: OHV area designations

Change Initiated By (Title): Transportation Planner and Land Use Planner

Decision to be Changed: Open designation for the Penrose Chaining area and Closed designation for the Deer Haven area

Other Affected Decisions: NA

CHANGE

(Describe exactly what is to be deleted, added, rewritten, corrected, etc.)

Delete: An off-highway vehicle open area is designated in the Penrose Chaining Area. Off-highway closed area is designated to protect the Deer Haven Ranch area.

Insert: An off-highway vehicle limited designation will be placed on designated roads and trails for the Penrose Chaining and Deer Haven areas.

RATIONALE

(Describe exact rationale for above change)

BLM completed route designations in the Gold Belt Travel Management Plan, with a decision signed on 06/02/04. As part of this planning, it was determined that the Open designation for the Penrose Chaining area and the Closed designation for the Deer Haven area were no longer needed. The decision was to change both areas to the Limited OHV area designation and designate travel routes in both areas. The State Director approved the plan amendment for these OHV area designation changes on August 18, 2004. This amendment form documents that approval.

Specialists Consulted: Keith Berger, Erik Brekke, Mike Gaylord, Dave Gilbert, Lindell Greer, Dan Grenard, Tom Grette, Jack Hagan, Diana Kossnar, Jeanette Pranzo, Ed Skerjanec, John Smeins, Dave Walker, Monica Weimer, Bob Wiegand, Pete Zwaneveld

SIGNATURE

Land Use Planner:

Pete Zwaneveld

Date: 09/07/04

Field Manager:

Jinda McStobler (for)

Date: 9/7/04

**DECISION RECORD
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

CO-200-2003-0090 EA

**Gold Belt Travel Management Plan
OHV Area Designations**

**USDI Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office**

Fremont, Teller, Park and El Paso Counties, Colorado

INTRODUCTION: This document describes my decision and rationale for the Gold Belt Travel Management Plan (TMP), specifically for the changes in OHV area designations on Public Lands administered by the Royal Gorge Field Office. Under the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to determine if the Proposed Action might cause significant environmental impacts. The EA was prepared to evaluate two actions – changing OHV area designations (this decision) and designating individual travel routes within the Gold Belt TMP area (see accompanying decision).

My decision and finding are based on the EA of the proposed activities and alternatives for the Gold Belt Travel Management Plan and the goals and objectives stated in the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan (RMP).

During the preparation of the EA, BLM policy changed on the designation of routes for OHV use. The new policy states that the designation of routes is an implementation decision that is no longer subject to a plan amendment. In contrast, the designation of areas as Open, Limited, or Closed is still subject to a plan amendment. The designation of routes and the revision of some travel management regulations are now subject to the appeal regulations. A separate decision is being issued concurrently with this decision on the implementation of route designations and revision of some travel management regulations.

The Administrative Record, including the EA that discusses and analyzes the Proposed Action and alternatives, is available for review at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Royal Gorge Field Office, 3170 E. Main Street, Canon City, CO. Please direct questions about this Decision Record/FONSI or the EA to Pete Zwaneveld, Land Use Planner, Royal Gorge Field Office, at (719) 269-8559.

BACKGROUND: The 564,600 acre planning area is located north of Canon City, Colorado, and includes 138,600 acres of BLM administered Public Lands. This included 3,174 acres designated as OHV Open in the Penrose Commons area, and 6,909 acres as OHV Closed in the

Deer Haven area. The Proposed Action is to change the OHV area designation for the Penrose Commons and Deer Haven areas to that of OHV Limited.

DECISION: It is my decision to change the OHV Open area designation of the Penrose Commons area and the OHV Closed area designation of the Deer Haven area. Both areas will become part of the OHV area designation of Limited to Designated Roads and Trails. This decision is related to but distinct from the Decision Record that implements route designations in the Gold Belt TMP planning area. I have chosen the Proposed Action (as stated in the EA, page 8). The attached maps entitled Gold Belt Travel Management Plan – Final Decision shows the two areas where OHV area designations are changed, and are included as part of this decision.

Based upon public input, I have decided to make no changes to the OHV area designation proposals from that identified in the Proposed Action of the EA.

RATIONALE: The proposed change in OHV area designations found in the Proposed Action for the Gold Belt TMP will best balance the recreational demands with resource needs, RMP goals, and compliance with Public Land Health Standards. My decision to select the Proposed Action is based on the findings and analysis in the EA, including supporting documentation and reports, and extensive public participation and involvement in this project. After reviewing the public comments I did not find any substantive reasons for changing the Proposed Action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI): The environmental assessment, analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action, has been reviewed. The proposal, with approved mitigation measures, results in a Finding Of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

PROTEST OPPORTUNITIES: Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the amendment of a resource management plan may protest such amendment. A protest may raise only those issues that were submitted for the record during the planning process. New issues may not be brought into the record at the protest stage.

The protest shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Director, at the following address (for regular mail):

Director (210)
Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, DC 20035

For overnight (Fedex) mailing, send protests to:

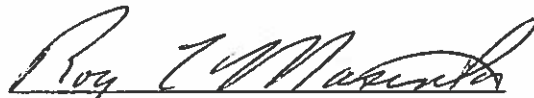
Director (210)
Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator
1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1075
Washington, DC 20036

For an amendment, the protest must be filed within 30 days of the publication of the notice of its effective date. The effective date is June 14, 2004.

The protest shall contain: 1) the name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest; 2) a statement of the issue or issues being protested; 3) a statement of the part or parts of the amendment being protested; 4) a copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record; and 5) a concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong. *This is a critical part of your protest.* Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, or available planning records (i.e., meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.). A protest that merely expresses disagreement with the Colorado BLM State Director's proposed decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information or insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

The Director will promptly render a decision on the protest. The decision will be in writing and will set forth the reasons for the decision. The decision of the Director will be the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

SIGNATURE OF RECOMMENDING OFFICIAL:



Roy L. Masinton
Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office

6-2-04
Date

APPROVAL

It is my decision to approve the amendment for the Gold Belt Travel Management Plan to the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan, as described in the Royal Gorge Field Manager's recommendation, and analyzed in environmental assessment CO-200-2003-0090EA.

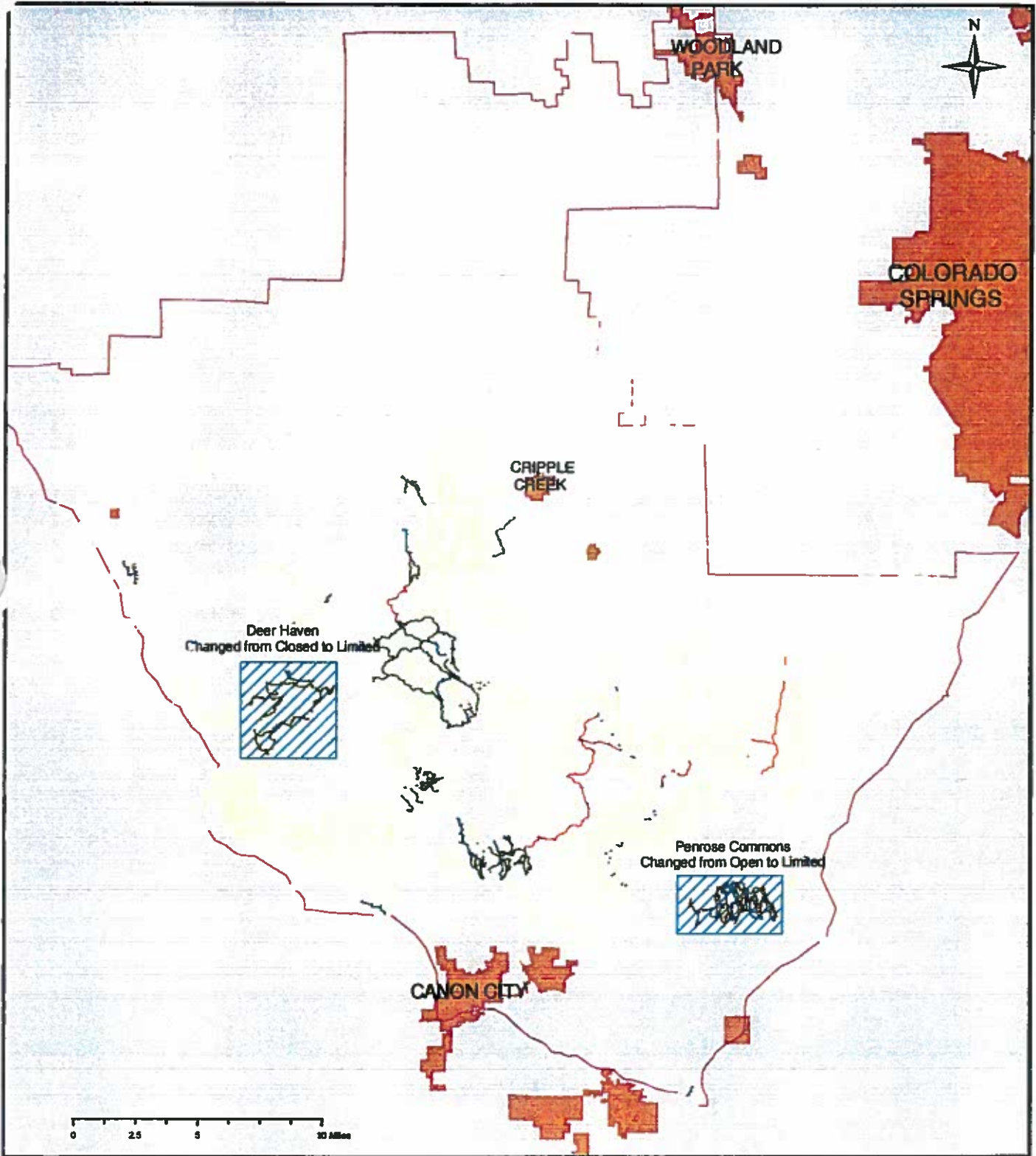
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:




Ron Wenker, State Director








August 18, 2004
Date

GOLD BELT TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN - FINAL DECISION



Map Legend

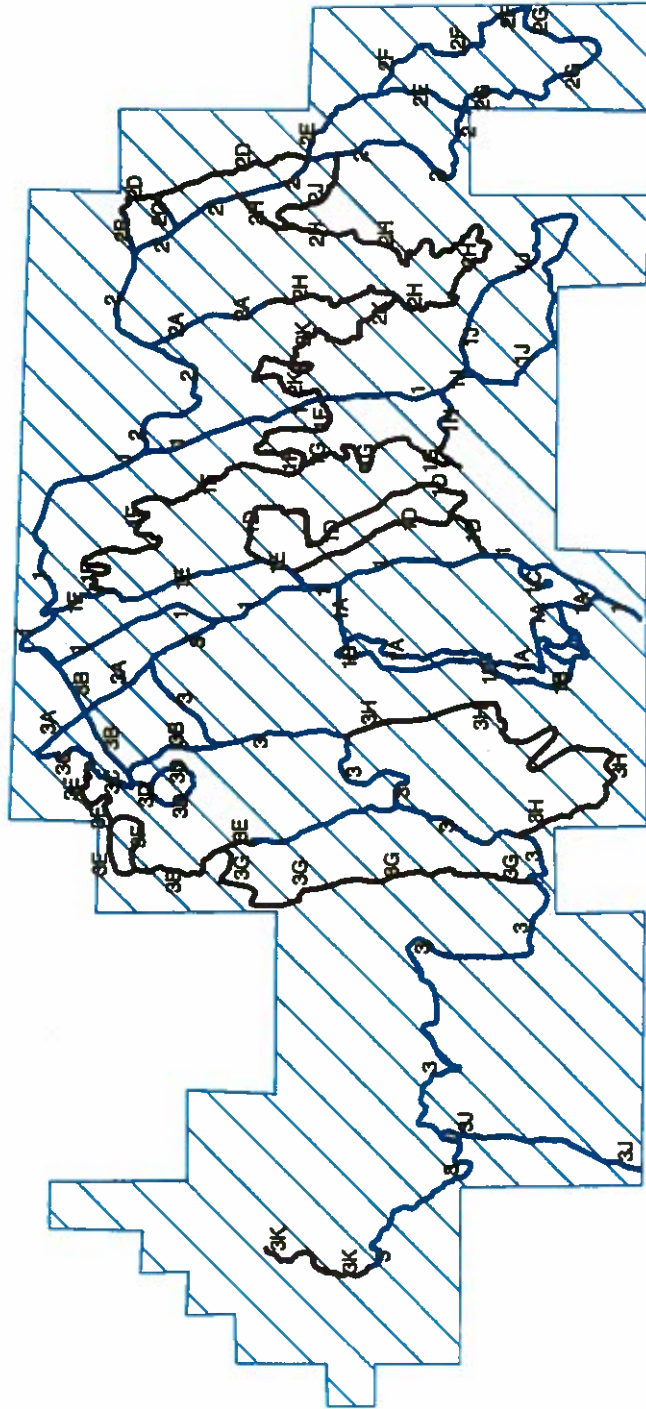


-  OHV Area Changes
-  Foot
-  Foot+Horse
-  Foot+Horse+Bicycle
-  Foot+Horse+Bicycle+Motorcycle+ATV
-  General - All Motorized, Mechanized, Non-motorized
-  County, State, Federal Highways
-  BLM Lands
-  Gold Belt TMP Boundary

LOCATION MAP
OHV AREA DESIGNATIONS
 See Attached Inset Maps for Details

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GOLD BELT TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN - FINAL DECISION



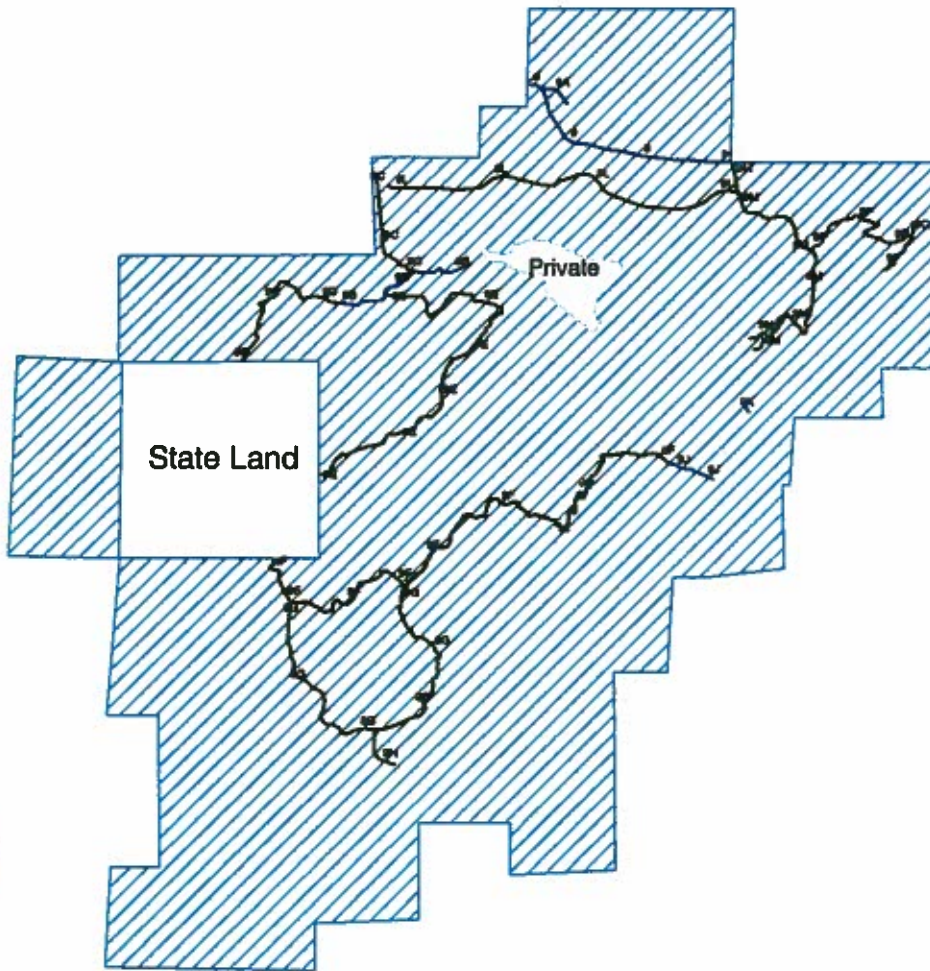
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OHV AREA DESIGNATIONS
PENROSE COMMONS
 Changed from Open to Limited


Map Legend


- OHV area commons
- Foot
- Foot+horse
- Foot+horse+Bicycle
- Foot+horse+Bicycle+Motorcycle+ATV
- General - All Motorized, Mchanized, Non-motorized
- County, State, Federal Highways
- BLM Land


GOLD BELT TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN - FINAL DECISION





Map Legend


 OHV Area Changes


 Foot


 Foot+Horse


 Foot+Horse+Bicycle

 Foot+Horse+Bicycle+Motorcycle+ATV

 General - All Motorized, Mechanized, Non-motorized

 County, State, Federal Highways

 BLM Lands



**OHV AREA DESIGNATIONS
DEER HAVEN
Changed from Closed to Limited**

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