



## Travel Management

As part of the land use planning process for the Bears Ears National Monument, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), with input from the public, will make off-highway vehicle (OHV) area designations.

### What Are Off-Highway Vehicles?

BLM regulations state that OHVs are any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding examples as defined in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8340.0-5(a)1-5. The term *OHV* is synonymous with the term *off-road vehicle*.

### What Are Off-Highway Vehicle Area Designations?

OHV area designations are the result of a land use planning decision that permits, establishes conditions for, or prohibits OHV activities on specific areas of public lands. The BLM is required to designate all public lands as open, limited, or closed to OHVs. Definitions and designation criteria are provided in 43 CFR 8342.1.

The types of OHV designations are as follows:

- **Open:** A designated area where all types of OHV travel is permitted at all times anywhere in the area. Open OHV area designations are made to achieve a specific recreational goal, objective, and setting. An example of an OHV open area may be a sand dune environment.
- **Limited:** An area where OHV use is restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. Examples of restrictions include the numbers or types of vehicles, the time or season of use, and other restrictions necessary to meet resource management objectives.
- **Closed:** An area where OHV use is prohibited. The BLM designates areas as closed, if necessary, to protect resources, promote visitor safety, or reduce user conflicts (see 43 CFR 8340.0-5(h)).



The designation of these areas will guide future implementation-level travel management planning where the agencies will designate travel routes within the Indian Creek and Shash Jáa Units. This is done outside of the resource management planning process.

### What Is an Implementation-Level Plan?

An implementation-level plan is a site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land use plan. An implementation plan usually includes best management practices to meet land use planning objectives. Implementation plans are synonymous with “activity” plans. A travel management plan is an example of an implementation plan.

## **What Is a Travel Management Plan?**

A travel management plan describes the decisions related to the selection and management of the travel network and transportation system.

## **How Will Motorized Vehicle Use Be Managed During the Monument Planning Process?**

Until an implementation-level travel management plan is completed, all travel routes that are currently designated as open to OHV use within the Indian Creek and Shash Jáa Units of the Bears Ears National Monument will remain available for public use and maintenance as designated in existing travel management plans.

### **Indian Creek Unit**

The *Monticello Resource Management Plan* (2008) designated 199 miles of travel routes within the Indian Creek Unit of the Bears Ears National Monument. Per Proclamation 9681, these travel routes will continue to be available for public use and maintenance as designated in the existing travel management plan outlined in the *Monticello Resource Management Plan*. The number of miles of travel route per category is as follows:

- 22 miles of state and federal highways and paved passenger roads to Canyonlands National Park
- 47 miles of improved roads
- 127 miles of primitive roads
- 3 miles of motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) routes

Cross-country OHV travel is prohibited within the entire unit.

### **Shash Jáa Unit**

On lands managed by the BLM, the *Monticello Resource Management Plan* (2008) designated 242 miles of travel routes within the Shash Jáa Unit of the Bears Ears National Monument. Per Proclamation 9681, these travel routes will continue to be available for public use and maintenance as designated in the travel management plan. The number of miles of travel route per category is as follows:

- 23 miles of state and federal highways (BLM)
- 82 miles of maintained Natural Surface Roads (BLM)
- 135 Unmaintained Natural Surface Roads (BLM)
- 2 miles of motorcycle and ATV routes (BLM)
- 5 miles passenger vehicle (USFS)
- 33 miles high clearance (USFS)

Cross-country OHV travel is prohibited within the entire unit.