

Travel Management Road Closure Monitoring Plan (BLM Report Number: 8111-NV040-10-1909)

The goals of the South Steptoe Travel Management Plan are to provide a network of routes that meet the needs of the public, private land owners, and affected agencies while managing for the overall health of the landscape. In order to achieve these goals, the BLM's proposed action is to identify a set of currently open routes for permanent or limited closure based on the potential impacts or benefits to multiple resources, including cultural resources.

Upon final determination of routes in South Steptoe Travel Management Area, the BLM proposes to employ four different techniques to implement the road closures by: 1) Posting carsonite signs with route closed stickers at road entrances, 2) Installing two permanent four inch diameter seven foot posts into the ground with concrete footings three feet in depth, 3) Ripping the surface of the route by using either a trail dozer or hand crews and placing large boulders at route entrances, and 4) Installing gates with locks for seasonal closures. All work done would be within the current footprint of the existing routes. No new routes are proposed under this plan.

While closing routes are anticipated to be beneficial to cultural resources, closure methods that employ ground disturbance (methods three and four above) may result in a negative impact. The BLM proposes to have a qualified archaeologist monitor the implementation of the South Steptoe Management Plan when using methods three and four to mitigate potential impacts to cultural resources. If significant cultural resources are discovered during monitoring, the BLM will cease using that method and employ a non-ground disturbing method of closure.