

DECISION RECORD
Park, Gallatin, Broadwater Travel Management Plan
DOI-BLM-MT-B070-2016-002-EA

DECISION

It is my decision to approve the travel route designations described in Alternative C (Preferred) of the Park, Gallatin, Broadwater Travel Management Plan (TMP) and Environmental Assessment (*DOI-BLM-MT-B070-2016-002-EA*). The table below provides a summary of these designations. Maps of these designations are contained within the EA, available for review at <http://bit.ly/2fdXPEY>

Existing Travel Routes	Route Types	Final Travel Route Designations				
		Open to all uses	Limited by Season Closed to Wheeled Motorized Vehicles Dec 2 – May 15	Limited to Administrative, Authorized & Non-Motorized uses Closed Yearlong to all other Wheeled Motorized Vehicles	Closed and Decommission	Totals
13 routes 8.87 miles	Roads	11 routes 8.13 miles	1 routes 0.44 miles	1 route 0.3 miles	0 routes 0 miles	13 routes 8.87 miles
174 routes 81.72 miles	Primitive Roads	71 routes 42.06 miles	21 routes 11.32 miles	39 routes 15.65 miles	44 routes 14.43 miles	174 routes 81.72 miles
1 route 0.14 miles	Trails	0 routes 0 miles	1 route 0.14 miles Motorized Vehicles 50" wide or less	6 routes 16.59 miles*	0 routes 0 miles	7 routes 16.73 miles
188 Routes 90.73 Miles	TOTALS	82 routes 50.19 miles	23 routes 11.90 miles	46 routes 32.54 miles	44 routes 14.43 miles	194 routes 107.32 miles**

*The 16.59 miles of "Trails" in the "Limited to Administrative, Authorized and Non-Motorized Uses" column in the above table refers to the non-motorized trail system in the Copper City area. The actual number of trail miles installed may vary due to resource and safety concerns identified during implementation. These routes will be designated as "Open" to mountain biking and hiking use only, due to safety concerns. Other non-motorized users will still be allowed to access all other routes in area.

**A 1.74-mile route occurs as both "Limited to Admin..." and "Limited by Season...", and therefore is counted twice; the figure shown in the "Totals" row and column does not reflect this double count.

In addition to the route designations described in the table above, the following applies:

Over Snow Vehicle Use

Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) use will be allowed on travel routes designated as "Open" to Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs), but only during the period between December 2 and May 15 each year. No cross-country OSV travel is allowed. Exceptions to these designations are listed in TMP/EA Section 2.4.1.

Non-Motorized Use

Under this Travel Management Plan, people are allowed to walk or ride horses anywhere on public lands unless an area is closed for safety or specific resource protection (example: Copper City non-motorized trail system is "Open" to hikers and bikers only). Mountain biking is allowed on all designated routes in the travel network, except those scheduled to be "Closed and Decommissioned" or signed otherwise. Cross-country mountain bike use is not allowed anywhere in the TMP area. All non-motorized users should understand that if a route is designated as "Closed and Decommissioned" it will not be maintained and could be rehabilitated at any time.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The Park, Gallatin, Broadwater Travel Management Plan represents the optimal plan to improve the management of transportation and access on Bureau of Land Management lands in this area. It draws a reasonable balance between strong demands for diverse types of access and the resources that need protection.

In this Travel Management Plan, BLM outlines a direction for transportation management, including the establishment of a designated travel route system. The Preferred Alternative (Alternative C) and the associated Travel Management Plan focus on priorities for managing travel and transportation, including:

- Establishing a comprehensive approach to travel and transportation management;
- Minimizing the effects of vehicular use on natural and cultural resources;
- Enhancing visitor access while minimizing user conflicts; and,
- Ensuring public health and safety.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Through formal scoping, a review of the draft EA, and a public meeting held in Three Forks, Montana on July 27, 2016, the public has been informed of the planning process and has provided BLM with valuable input on how the area should be managed to address a wide variety of issues and concerns, such as motorized and non-motorized uses, private land-owner desires, and access for recreational, commercial, authorized, and administrative purposes. I have considered all comments received on the draft EA; responses to substantive comments are in EA/TMP Appendix 6. This Travel Management Plan addresses the issues and concerns in a way that minimizes conflict and seeks to implement a management framework for an area where very little management existed previously.

MITIGATION

Each of the designated travel routes in the Park, Gallatin, Broadwater Travel Management Plan will be subject to adaptive management and monitoring, as described on pages 92-99 of the Environmental Assessment (*DOI-BLM-MT-B070-2016-002-EA*). If problems with specific travel routes are identified, specific management actions (mitigation) will be employed, as described on pages 99-102 of the Environmental Assessment (*DOI-BLM-MT-B070-2016-002-EA*).

Copper City Non-Motorized Trail System

The majority of target shooting currently occurring in the Copper City area is located on private lands, and thus is outside of BLM control. On adjacent BLM lands, the BLM believes that target shooting, if done properly, is a legitimate use of the public lands. BLM is not proposing any target shooting closures, nor is BLM designating specific shooting areas. However, shooting on both the private and public lands at Copper City has led to significant littering. Many shooters bring various items to use as targets and then do not clean up these items after they are done shooting. Multiple clean-up efforts have been conducted to alleviate this situation, only to have the litter return in a short period of time. BLM welcomes continued use of the public lands at Copper City for responsible target shooting, but wants all users to be mindful and respectful of others recreating in the area.

The BLM is available to work with mountain bike groups, the Broadwater County Commissioners, and the target shooting community should trail route adjustment be needed to alleviate safety concerns, or to enhance the biking experience. In addition, during trail construction the BLM will work to locate trails to topographically screen them from known shooting locations. In turn, target shooters may need to adjust their downrange or backstop areas away from the trail system.

APPEALS

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, your Notice of Appeal must be filed in this office, located at 106 North Parkmont, Butte, Montana 59701, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The BLM will not accept appeals sent by electronic mail. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you want to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulation 43 CFR Part 4.21 (b) for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the IBLA, the Petition for a Stay must accompany your Notice of Appeal. The Petition for a Stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below in order to be granted by IBLA.

At the same time the original documents are filed with this office, copies of the Notice of Appeal and the Petition for Stay must also be submitted to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and to the Office of Solicitor at: Field Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, 2021 4th Avenue N., Suite 112
Billings, Montana 59101

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
3. The likelihood of immediate or irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and,
4. Whether the public interest favors a granting of the stay.

//SIGNED//

Scott Haight, Field Manager

Oct. 31, 2016

Date