



File Code: 1950; 7710
Route To:

Date: June 25, 2025

Subject: Interim Guidance for Travel Management Proposals and Decisions

To: Region 6 Line Officers and Regional Directors

REPLY DUE JULY 14, 2025

Travel Management regulations and policy are currently under review at the Agency and Departmental levels. To ensure Region 6 projects do not result in decisions that may be inconsistent with potential future changes, I am temporarily suspending the incorporation of Travel Management proposals that would decrease public access into National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects and directing you to defer Travel Management decision-making. This suspension will remain in effect until I issue updated guidance.

While not required, Line Officers in Region 6 have a long-standing practice of integrating Travel Management proposals into landscape-scale projects, particularly those projects that include vegetation or fuels management as a focal point. This suspension will, therefore, mark a departure in how we develop projects. During this suspension, do not include Travel Management objectives as part of the Purpose and Need for new projects. I recognize that adjustments to the transportation system are sometimes needed to achieve other objectives, and I ask that you limit such proposals to those which are deemed necessary to safely implement other mission critical work or fulfill requirements in the Land and Resource Management Plans that govern management of units in Region 6. Developing more focused Purpose and Need statements will also reduce the complexity of NEPA analyses and facilitate more efficient environmental analysis and decision-making.

Please evaluate projects initiated prior to this suspension that include Travel Management as part of the Purpose and Need and Proposed Action or Alternatives to determine the need for and feasibility of reinitiating scoping with updated project information that adheres to this guidance. I ask that you complete this project review for your units by July 14, 2025, and report back to me your findings regarding projects that include travel management components that would decrease public access as well as your plan for how you intend to proceed. You may submit your summary findings and intentions to Tracy Calizon, Acting Deputy Director of Recreation, Lands, and Minerals.

I will require briefing on any project for which you have determined it is not feasible or advantageous to update project information to adhere to this guidance. In such cases, please prepare a briefing paper and work with Jessica Jeffries, Executive Assistant, to coordinate a meeting time. I have attached a briefing paper template for your convenience.

Travel Management regulations (36 CFR Part 212, Subparts A, B, and C) remain in effect while we suspend Regional Travel Management NEPA decisions. Subpart A of these regulations includes requirements for administration of the forest transportation system, including roads, trails, and airfields, and contains provisions for acquisition of rights-of-way. Subpart A also



requires identification of the minimum road system needed for safe and efficient travel and for administration, utilization, and protection of NFS lands and use of a science-based roads analysis at the appropriate scale in determining the minimum road system. Subpart B describes the requirements for designating roads, trails, and areas for motor vehicle use and for identifying designated roads, trails, and areas on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Subpart C describes the requirements for designating roads, trails, and areas for over-snow vehicle (OSV) use and for identifying designated roads, trails, and areas on an OSV use map (OSVUM).

I recommend that you engage Regional Office subject matter experts early in the project design process to address any questions you may have about implementing this guidance. Please contact Zach Jarrett, Trails and Dispersed Recreation Program Manager, if you have any questions or need clarification. Thank you for all the work you are doing to maintain or improve public access in support our Regional and National priorities.

JACQUELINE BUCHANAN
Digitally signed by
JACQUELINE BUCHANAN
Date: 2025.06.25 14:53:43
-07'00'

JACQUELINE A. BUCHANAN
Regional Forester

Enclosure: Briefing Paper Template - Travel Management
Project Components

cc: Kristen Bonanno, Tracy Calizon, Zach Jarrett, Sasha Bertel