

We Want to Hear What You Think...

Snowy Range Travel Management Analysis

Laramie Ranger District Medicine Bow National Forest

Public Comment Form

The Laramie Ranger District of the Medicine Bow National Forest is requesting comments on our inventoried transportation system. Since 2000, we have been inventorying unclassified (i.e. unauthorized/user-created) roads and motorized trails on portions of the Snowy Range administered by the Laramie Ranger District. We are ready to share that information with the public, but we realize that there may be errors or omissions. Therefore, we are asking that you review our mapping efforts and let us know if changes need to be made to the inventory.

Why are we completing the Snowy Range Travel Management Analysis?

On October 16, 2000 the Medicine Bow National Forest issued a decision that changed existing travel management regulations to restrict motorized travel, with the exception of snowmobiles, to designated¹ roads and trails. That decision allowed unclassified roads and motorized trails to temporarily remain open to motorized use until site-specific travel management analyses are completed to determine their fate. The decision also indicated that unclassified routes would not be added to the Forest Transportation System until the Phase II analyses were completed. Finally, the decision stated that unclassified routes that were resulting in unacceptable adverse off-road impacts would be immediately closed to motorized use (36 CFR 295.5). These routes are marked as “red” roads or motorized trails on our maps.

The Snowy Range Travel Management Analysis is a Phase II analysis that, with the help of the public, will identify a variety of ways to manage unclassified roads and motorized trails, including:

- Closing the roads/trails to motorized use
- Adding the roads/trails to the Forest Transportation System (FTS)
- A combination of opening and closing unclassified routes or converting them to other uses (e.g. non-motorized trails)
- Developing a motorized trail system

We need your help...

Identifying an environmentally and socially viable transportation system is not something that we can accomplish alone; we need your help. Your answers to the following questions will help us finalize our

¹ Designated roads and trails are routes that are marked on the ground with numbered posts and are open to motorized travel.

inventory and, hopefully, come up with a proposal that is acceptable to most people. Thank you for your time and information.

1. Are we missing any roads and/or trails on our current inventory? If so, please identify (being as specific as possible) where the routes are located, draw them on our maps at our "Annotation Station," or place them on a topographic map (1:24,000) and submit them to our office before September 1, 2004. If roads or trails are not on the inventory, they will not be considered for additions to the transportation system and will be closed to motorized use. _____

Maps will be available for public viewing and for making changes at the following locations:

Laramie Ranger District office, 2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, Wyoming

Albany County Public Library, 810 South 8th Street, Laramie, Wyoming

Laramie County Library, 2800 Central Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Maps will also be available on the Forest Service web-site at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/projects/trans/index.shtml>

2. Please provide any additional ideas or comments you might have concerning travel management on the portions of the Snowy Range administered by the Laramie Ranger District. _____

Name _____

Address _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. The information you've provided is greatly appreciated and will help us develop a better final product!

Please return to: Medicine Bow National Forest
Attn: Melissa Martin
2468 Jackson Street
Laramie, WY 82070

Changes to our Transportation Inventory will be accepted until September 1, 1004.