

Public Route Designation Workshop

Tentative Agenda

October 12-15 2006

Rapid City SD

Emphasize: Why public needs to be involved/not being involved is not an option

Sessions

Role of NOHVCC and industry in the Process

15 minutes

Objective: Understanding of role of NOHVCC, MIC and SVIA and how all groups are working together for success

- To facilitate successful (define) implementation of the Rule to meet needs for high quality, quantity and sustained opportunity
- Facilitate collaboration by BRC/United 4WD/ARRA/AMA
- Facilitate discussion/collaboration between agency and OHV folks
- Provide future resources – help in next steps
- Demographic factoids
- Manage the expectation of the user as to outcome
- No net loss/no change is not option – change/different can be better
- A sustainable system
- Success stories
 - ← Dixie NF
 - ← High Woods RD
- No one ends up completely happy
- Must work for success – must be involved
- Less miles but higher quality – Deschutes NF example

Overview of Route Designation Agency Workshops

15 minutes

- Scope of agency workshop
- Who participated
- Build confidence in the OHV community that the workshop program is trying to develop effective partnerships to protect and improve their opportunities
- Include outline or high points of agency Workshop
- Agency needs
- Build importance of public involvement
- Recognition that there was strong national OHV support for the Rule
- Include outline or high points of agency workshop
- Bring agency concerns/issues to public attention – how can the OHV public help with these

Rule Overview

60 minutes

Objective: To provide a basic understanding of the Rule and to emphasize where and how enthusiasts can get involved and become successful.

- Basics - What the Rule is and what the Rule isn't
- Who is impacted
- The Rule is final – Don't fight it
 - ← Participation is critical – do it now or lose it
 - ← Must map all important trails – hidden trails will be lost
 - ← Will learn how to work with it
- Emphasize includes road, trails & areas
- Maps get republished each year
- Burden on USER to read map
- Ask questions
 - ← How will information be distributed
 - ← When will public will have opportunity to comment

4E's

15 minutes

Objective: To provide an understanding of the interrelationship and importance of Education, Engineering, Enforcement, and Evaluation to achieve desired OHV management outcomes.

- Engineering
- Education
- Enforcement
- Evaluation

Include: For all 4Es - how public fits in and examples

Understanding the FS organizational structure

30 minutes

- Present structure form
- Chain of command
- Need to understand role of FS personnel – role playing/develop empathy – FS personnel is “Only friend” in this process
- Building trust – no spear chucking
- Will accomplish nothing by stepping on toes
- We're here for YOU not FS

FS Planning Process

60 minutes

- Land management Planning Process versus Travel Management Planning Process
- NFMA vs. NEPA and how they relate
- NEPA 101
- Planning to Project transition - show Planning Triangle
- Need to keep people engaged

Understanding other players/How to Address Conflict

60 minutes

- Motorized and non motorized
- Awareness of other user needs and desires
- Find common ground to mitigate/avoid conflict
- Can't meet others needs without being aware of others needs and desires – use WY staging area design for foot, hoof and motor visitors
- Agency must deal with all users – balance – campers, wood gatherers, etc.

- Motor Vehicle Rule not just an OHV Rule
- Success stories of how dealt with
 - ← CTUC – Angeles National Forest
 - ← Mitigate with design
- Recognize trail use hierarchy
- Educate those who want to avoid motors how to find the experiences they are seeking
- How to deal with perceived or manufactured conflict
 - ← Ask agency for specifics on the conflict
 - ← Offer comment with
- Some conflict created by irresponsible or uneducated publics
- Mitigate some conflict through trail or facility design

Understanding Collaboration

60 minutes

- Be brief
- Do not walk away from the table or give up – for any reason
- See the process through
- Gain control of the dialog – speak up
- Beware of pitfalls of collaboration
- Have professional facilitator
- There is a time to put a “Line in the sand” and agree to disagree
- Collaboration is not negotiation
- Recognize time needed to develop collaborative group
- When does collaboration happen in the Process
- Don’t stop – collaboration is on-going
- Enthusiasts must ask for collaborative process/involvement
- Enthusiasts must talk to each other
- Have realistic expectation of results
 - ← Collaboration not a cure-all
 - ← Collaboration allows us to identify agreements/common ground

Route Designation Process

60 minutes

- Flow chart
 - ← Opportunities to participate
 - ← When to submit comments
- Submit “Needs & Desires”
 - ← Within ONE week of session
 - ← Must know who to talk to
- Have FS base map at session & time to review – put on website prior to announcement and meeting
- Effective public comment/involvement
- How to overcome user conflict argument

System Planning and Design/Understanding Sustainability (Includes Agency points)

2-1/2 hours

Objective: Overview of what needs to be known and considered to develop a quality sustainable system that meets user needs

- Overview

- Use felt exercise
- Tie back to substantive comment – don't fight for routes in existing closed areas or areas we can't get
- Use design to mitigate "conflict"
- Reemphasize desire for/demand quality opportunities
- New construction can solve problems and be cheaper than fixes

Agency: System Planning and Design points

- Vision/Goal – Vision without action is a daydream, action without a vision is a nightmare
- How the individual routes should serve as the building blocks for a quality system
- There's a solution to every challenge
- Where would you put trails if you could
- Group exercise
 - ← Stimulate thought
 - ← Illustrate considerations & options
- User conflict considerations
- Carrying Capacity
- Managing expectations
- Variety & level of difficulty
- Temporal zoning
- Seasonal designations
- Vehicle differences
- Downgrading/conversion of roads to trails including 4WD trails
- Mixed traffic trails

Understanding Trail sustainability

- User must understand all variables in designing a route - \$\$\$, maintenance, resources
- Range of definitions – there is not a black & white definition
- Ask why a route is not sustainable – are there possible mitigations
- Offer other financial resources not just appropriations
- Volunteers – work/adopt-a-trail/match for grants/support grants
- All routes require routine maintenance –the need for maintenance does not mean non-sustainable
- All routes
- Recognition that maintenance is less expensive than decommissioning
- Recognize that there are finite resources – need to consider ways to overcome, work with, prioritize work, may need to make choices, etc.
- Use permitted routes to reduce use/costs

How to Communicate Needs & Desires/Effective Communication 1-1/2 hours

- Professional working relationship
- Usable data
- Effective comments
 - ← Must have substantive letters/emails
- Mass letter writing

- ← Not a vote
- ← But may be necessary for political and media interests
- ← Do not replace substantive letters/emails
- Form letters o.k. but
 - ← Must be specific
 - ← Must state “why” you’re asking for what you’re asking
 - ← Must be diplomatic
 - ← Passion is o.k.
- Form emails can be counterproductive – recognize impacts of effort on agency staff receiving comments

Collecting and Compiling Route Data

60 minutes

Objective: To identify skills riders can use that will help make the process a success

- Lewis & Clark NF module
- Riders can be trained to use desired data collection equipment
- Data does not have to be GPS – pencil line is o.k.
- Rule does not require an inventory but lack of inventory of important routes will cause problems. A “complete” inventory is not necessary but if time & energy put into process do the best possible.
- Displaying user presented data builds trust and confidence – need some documentation/proof that provided public information in any form was considered
- Fish Lake NF example
- Artificial restrictions on data that is presented or accepted will cause problems – Ocala NF example
- A “good” inventory may be the result of a collaborative process
- Route inventory
 - ← Reference Steps 1 & 2 of National Implementation Guidelines
 - ← Ask forest how they prefer to receive trail information
 - ← Ask forest to go out on the ground together
 - ← Make sure FS understands where trails are on a map – compare user map to FS map
 - ← Importance – Need information NOW
 - _ Description, lines on napkin, GPS must be accepted
 - _ The more accurate – GPS/photos – the better
 - _ Provide hierarchy of data – if public time to identify is limited work on what is most important first
 - _ Reiterate need to identify/reveal ALL/”secret” trails you want to kept - don’t try to hide trails – if not mapped will be lost

Developing Resources to Help With the Process

60 minutes

- Have volunteer agreements
- Funding resources – RTP, etc.
- Training workshops – NOHVCC, AMA, BRC, United 4WD, ARRA, etc.
- Include CD handout information from agencies
- All register on ARRA website

Volunteer Development/Commitment – combined with Developing Resources

- Success story
- Plant involvement seeds

- What you can and can't expect from volunteers
- Be aware of training requirements (chainsaw training)
- Don't reinvent the wheel – plenty of good examples
- How to help agency develop good volunteer programs
- Tie to 4E's
- Vision/concept – volunteerism does not just get work done, protects opportunity and creates ownership but also enriches entire recreation experience
- Tie to “ability to operate and maintain” in Rule