

High Priority routes screened out through Design Criteria analysis may be considered in the Proposed Action or Alternatives on a route by route basis based on:

- Ability to create loops, connections to specific destinations and provide multiple day riding opportunities
- Ability to mitigate resources concerns
- Long-term sustainability
- Operation and maintenance costs and other administrative considerations
- Consensus by the public and wheeled motor vehicle users that a route is a high priority

| Proposed Feature | Reference (Forest Plan, BMP, etc.) |
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| Botany | |
| 1. No OHV Routes permitted in Research Natural Areas (RNAs), Botanical Areas (BAs)[Long Canyon RNA Inspiration Point BA, Bodfish Piute Cypress BA] | Sequoia FLMP Long Canyon RNA ER; Inspiration Point RNA ER; Bodfish Piute Cypress BA Establishment Record |
| 2. Minimize or eliminate negative direct and indirect OHV route impacts to TES (Threatened, Endangered, and FS Sensitive) plants and habitat | Sierra Nevada Forest Plan amendment FSM 2670 - TES Management R5 FSH 2609.25 Threatened and Endangered Plants Program Handbook |
| 3. Minimize noxious weed spread by incorporating preventing and control measures into OHV design and management | Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment FSM-2080 Noxious Weed Management Region 5 Noxious Weed Management Strategy and Action Plan |
| 4. Incorporate public information and education measures to minimize the spread of noxious weeds by OHVs | Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment FSM 2080 Noxious Weed Management Region 5 Noxious Weed Management Strategy and Action Plan |
| 5. No routes within 500 feet or less of Bakersfield cactus populations | Recovery Plan Upland spp. SJV 1998 |
| Roads | |
| 6. ML1 forest roads are by definition closed and may not be designated unless changed to a managed trail | 36 CFR 212, 251, 261, and 295 Travel Management Rule |
| 7. ML 1 forest roads that connect two ML 2 forest roads may be changed to ML 2 to allow the connection to continue | Forest Service Handbook 7709.58 |
| 8. ML 2 forest roads will generally be designated as open to Greensticker OHV use unless adverse environmental impacts or conflicts with other users are identified | Sequoia Forest Land and Resource Management Plan |
| 9. Limit travel on forest roads during wet season | State of California Best Management Plan (BMP) 24 |
| Hydrology & Soils | |
| 1. Inventoried routes with a red rating (per State OHV Monitoring Plan) related to hydrologic impacts will not be designated in the riparian conservation areas (RCAs) associated with perennial and intermittent streams and/or wetlands | State of California OHV Monitoring Plan |
| 2. Stream crossings will follow trail design standards | Forest Service Handbook 2309.18 and Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook |
| 3. Minimize parallel and dead end routes in RCAs | Sequoia Forest Land and Resource Management Plan |
| 4. Routes open during wet weather should not be used when resource damage will occur. Resource damage is defined as continuous ruts over 1" deep | State of California Best Management Plan (BMP) 24 |
| 5. OHV routes and areas will not be located on active landslides or where a route will channel surface water onto active landslides | State of California BMP 6 Protection of Unstable Lands Practice: 1-6 |
| Recreation & Trails | |
| 1. Designated routes will meet Forest Service standards | Forest Service Handbook 2309.18 and Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook |
| 2. Seek to designate user-develop routes that link campgrounds and other sites to existing trails, tie trails together to create loops and multi-day opportunities, and resolve user conflicts | Sequoia Forest Land and Resource Management Plan |
| 3. Dead end routes may be allowed where they access a specific destination. | Public comments and to meet purpose and need for a sustainable trail system |
| 4. Look for opportunities to designate opportunities for motorized multiple use (e.g. 4wd, ATV, Motorcycles). Maintenance Level (ML) 3 roads may be changed to ML2 as appropriate. | Public comments and to meet purpose and need for a sustainable trail system |
| 5. Motorcycle trails will be maintained to Level 2 trail standards or they will be closed to OHV use; ATV and jeep trails will be maintained to trail Level 3 standards | Forest Service Handbook 2309.18 and Trail Construction and Maintenance Handbook and Sequoia Forest Land and Resource Management Plan |
| 6. No OHV route designation in Semi Primitive Not Motorized (LRMP), Wilderness, Pacific Crest Trail, Unal or Sunday Peak Trails with the exception of the Dry meadow trail as addressed in the MSA | Sequoia Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Sequoia Mediation Agreement (MSA) |
| 7. Cross country travel will be restricted to permitted uses; no cross-country game retrieval | Pacific Southwest Region Regional Forester Direction. Forest Orders to prohibit Cross-Country Wheeled Vehicle. Travel File Code 2350-5 March 23, 2006 |
| 8. Roads will be open below 4,000' elevation; 5/1 to 11/15 from 4,000' to 6,000'; 5/15 to 11/15 between 6,000 to 8,000'; and 6/1 | State of California Best Management Plan (BMP) 24 |

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| Wildlife | |
| 1. No routes designated in areas with documented disturbance to spotted owl, goshawk, and great gray owl nest sites and carnivore den sites | Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment |
| 2. Seasonal closure will occur within LOP of goshawk, great gray owl, and carnivore den sites | Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment |
| 3. Within bald eagle areas, ensure that culverts or other stream crossings do not create barriers to upstream or downstream passage for aquatic dependent species | Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Riparian S&G 101 |
| 4. Routes or areas will not have the potential to capture or divert stream flow. The approaches to stream crossings will be down-sloped toward the stream on both sides | Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for Upland Species SJV 1998 |
| 5. No routes within condor roost areas | 1988 Sequoia Forest Land and Resource Management Plan |
| 6. Staging areas for OHV will be farther than 1/2 mile from bald eagle nests. Staging areas and routes within 1/2 mile of occupied nests will be closed during the nesting season (January 1 to August 31 or 3 weeks after chicks are known to have fledged) | Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for Upland Species SJV 1998 |
| 7. Staging areas and trails within 1/4 mile of known winter roosts will be closed from November 15 to March 15. | Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for Upland Species SJV 1998 |
| 8. Routes and staging areas within 1/4 mile of occupied California spotted owl nests will be closed during the nesting season: march 1 through August 31 | Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for Upland Species SJV 1998 |
| 9. Routes or areas will not cross any stream or water body "within 500 feet of known occupied sites for the mountain yellow-legged frog to avoid adverse impact to individuals and their habitats." | Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment ROD Riparian S&G 98; Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for Upland Species SJV 1998 |
| 10. Prohibit or mitigate ground-disturbing activities that adversely affect hydrologic processes that maintain flow, water quality, or water temperature critical to sustaining bog and fen ecosystems and plant species that depend on these ecosystems" and "maintain and restore the hydrologic connectivity of streams, meadows, wetlands, and other special aquatic features..." | Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Riparian S&G 118 and 100 |
| 11. Route or area will not cross any stream or waterbody "within 500 feet of known occupied sites for the California red-legged frog to avoid adverse effects to individuals and their habitats; route or area will not occur within a distance of 500 feet from wetlands (i.e., springs, wet meadows, ponds, marshes). | Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Riparian S&G 98; Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for Upland Species SJV 1998 |
| Lands & Minerals | |
| 1. Routes for which a right-of- way does not exist and those predominantly on private land will not be designated unless there was evidence of historical use and consideration of prescriptive rights on a case-by-case basis | FLMP |
| 2. Routes with pre-existing and currently relevant NEPA that closed public access will not be designated | Forest Supervisor decision |
| 3. Routes that lead to abandoned mine sites and other mining-related sites that may pose a risk to public safety or are a documented risk to public safety will not be designated | FSM 2800 |
| 4. Routes will not be designated that are gated under a special use permit | Special Use Permit allows holder to maintain a gate that limits vehicle access. NEPA documents for the special use permits describe the route closures. |
| 5. Routes which terminate on Hwy 178 where CalTrans has denied access will not be designated | CalTrans will not allow public access to HWY 178 without designed intersections and proper turn lanes. |
| Heritage | |
| 6. The alternatives will follow measures outlined in the programmatic agreement between the Forest Service and CA SHPO | CA SHPO Programmatic Agreement |
| Other | |
| 7. All pre-existing and relevant NEPA decisions will be followed | 8. |