

Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands Releases Motor Vehicle Use Map

Cheyenne, OK, (October 22, 2007) – The Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands released the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) today. The map shows where and what type(s) of motor vehicle use is allowed on these grassland units. The MVUM is required by the Forest Service’s Travel Management Rule (TMR). On November 9, 2005 the Forest Service published the final regulations governing Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) and other motor vehicle use on national forests and grasslands (Travel Management; Designated, Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use, Federal Register / Vol. 70, No. 216 / 36 CFR Parts 212, 251, 261, and 295).

The MVUM displays the decisions made through previous district travel management analyses which were completed with public involvement. These decisions designated roads and motorized trails and prohibited motorized use off of the designated system. The designated system is a reflection of current management on these grasslands. No changes in use to previous designations have been made. The Black Kettle & McClellan Creek MVUM is available at the District Office in Cheyenne, OK or the Cibola National Forest Supervisor’s Office in Albuquerque, NM beginning October **, 2007 and on the Web at: www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/ohv_maps

The MVUM map is the legal document that will be used to enforce travel rules on national forest and grassland system lands and is available at no cost. The MVUM will be re-issued annually to include updates and reflect any travel management decisions made during the year. It is the responsibility of anyone who visits the grasslands to obtain a copy of the map.

More and more Americans are enjoying access and recreational opportunities on their national forests and grasslands, including motor vehicle use, which is consistent with the Forest Service’s multiple-use mandate. However, the increase in off-highway vehicle (OHV) use can adversely affect soil and water resources, wildlife habitat, and other recreational visitors, if left unmanaged. Today, unmanaged recreation, including impacts from OHVs, represents one of four major threats facing the nation’s forests and grasslands.

These new maps are not stand-alone documents. When used along with the grasslands’ visitor map, they provide needed information for motorized users to know where they are allowed to ride and with what types of motor vehicles. The MVUM doesn’t identify non-motorized recreation opportunities. Each rider has the responsibility to make sure they are riding their motorized vehicle where they are permitted. All grasslands users have a stake in ensuring the responsible use and enjoyment of the National Grasslands.

Please contact Mary Lane at (580) 497-2143 in the Cheyenne, OK office if you have questions or need additional information.

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