

LEGAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

Mortensen Corral and Dusterburgs Ridge
USDA Forest Service
Manti-La Sal National Forest

The Sanpete Ranger District is proposing to construct two OHV trails and a trailhead in Sanpete County, Utah in T17S, R4E Section 34 (Mortensen Corral) and T17S, R4E, Sections 8 and 9 (Dusterburgs Ridge).

The OHV trail to the trailhead west of Mortensen Corral would follow a closed National Forest System Road (NFSR # 51223) for approximately 0.7 mile and extend 0.1 mile past the end of the road to a trailhead. The trailhead would provide parking for 4-5 OHV's and serve as a transition to non-motorized use in the Canal Canyon Semi-Primitive Recreation (SPR) area. The OHV trail would be open to OHV's with four low pressure tires including side by side vehicles. Full size vehicle use of the trail would not be permitted except as specifically authorized under the R Larson Sheep Company grazing permit.

The trailhead would also include signing and barriers to prevent OHV access into the SPR. Full size vehicles or vehicles with trailers would still need to park at the junction of NFSR's #51223 and #50278. Connected with this action would be closure and decommissioning of 1.0 mile of NFSR #51221. This route is no longer needed and is being used for illegal motorized access into the SPR.

The Dusterburgs Ridge OHV Trail would follow NFSR #51226 and NFSR #51082 with two minor re-routes of about 0.1 mile each to reduce the trail grade in steep sections. NFSR #51226 would be closed to full size vehicle use approximately 0.2 mile north of its junction with NFSR #50114. Sheep camp access would be preserved in this first 0.2 mile. The remaining 1.1 miles of NFSR # 51226 would be reconstructed as an OHV trail open to OHV's 50 inches or less in width. Another 1.6 miles of the Dusterburgs Ridge trail would be reconstructed as an OHV trail and follow closed NFSR #51082 to its terminus with the New Canyon Road (NFSR #50039). This section would also be open to OHV's 50 inches or less in width. Connected with this action would be signage along the trail and closure of 1.2 miles of user-created OHV trail adjacent to this route.

A project map is available for review at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/projects/>.

The public is invited to comment on this proposed action. The decision issued will be subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations 36 CFR 215. Only those who submit timely comments during this comment period will be accepted as potential appellants. Comments can be either oral or written. Individuals or organizations submitting comments must either sign the comments or otherwise verify identity in order to attain appeal eligibility. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection. Comments should include the information required pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3), as published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2003.

The Responsible Official is Acting District Ranger Marlene DePietro. Please send written comments to: Marlene DePietro, Sanpete Ranger District, 540 North Main Street, Ephraim, Utah 84627; phone: (435) 283-4151, fax: (435) 283-5616; e-mail: comments-intermtn-manti-lasal-sanpete@fs.fed.us E-mailed comments must be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Comments may also be delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m, Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays. The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice in the *Sanpete Messenger Newspaper*.

If you have any questions please contact Acting Ranger DePietro or Bill Broadbear at 599 West Price River Drive, Price Utah 84501 or by telephone at 435-637-2817.