

PROPOSED ACTION

The Laramie Ranger District of the Medicine Bow National Forest is proposing to establish motorized recreation opportunities through the development of a motorized trail system. This would be accomplished by designating specific, unauthorized routes as part of the FTS and by constructing new motorized trail segments.

NOTE: The Proposed Action has been modified slightly from what was described in the March 4, 2005 scoping document in that: a) motorized trails have been strategically located away from wildlife security areas, old growth forest, and riparian areas; and b) the mileage of designated and constructed routes has been reduced. These modifications were based on comments received during the scoping process and additional field data.

The Proposed Action alternative responds to *Issue 1: Impacts to Streams, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas*; *Issue 2: Fragmentation and Wildlife Security*; *Issue 3: Designation of Unauthorized Routes and Miles of Trail Construction*; and *Issue 4: Loss of Motorized Recreation Opportunities*.

Specific activities associated with the Proposed Action include:

- Closing approximately 235.5 miles of unclassified roads, 39.0 miles of unauthorized trails, and 5 miles of NFSRs to motorized use (see Table 4, EA page 32). Roughly 2.7 miles of the NFSRs proposed for closure are located within Management Area 1.31 – Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Nonmotorized (See Map 8, EA pg. 40);
- Designating approximately 12.2 miles of unauthorized roads as part of the FTS;
- Designating approximately 68.3 miles of single-track motorcycle trails as part of the FTS. This would be accomplished by: a) designating 45.1 miles of unauthorized motorcycle trails; b) converting 3.2 mile of NFSRs to motorcycle trails; c) converting 3.3 miles of unauthorized roads to motorcycle trails; d) converting 1.2 miles of unauthorized ATV trail to motorcycle trail; and e) constructing 15.5 miles of new motorcycle trail segments. Due to the narrowness of these trails, ATVs would be prohibited;
- Designating approximately 38.1 miles of ATV trails as part of the FTS. This would be accomplished by: a) designating 8.0 miles of unauthorized ATV trails; b) converting 13.6 miles of system roads to ATV trails; c) converting 8.8 miles of unauthorized roads to ATV trails; d) converting 1.5 miles of unauthorized motorcycle trails to ATV trails; and e) constructing 6.2 miles of new ATV trail segments. Both ATVs and motorcycles would be allowed to travel on these trails.
- Constructing a bridge to accommodate motorcycles over Douglas Creek below the dam at Rob Roy Reservoir.

To accommodate the motorized trail system, the Forest Service would establish trailheads in the Albany and Mountain Home areas of the Forest (see Maps 4 and 5). The inactive gravel pit near the intersection of NFSRs 500 and 305, approximately 2 miles west of the Albany Snowmobile Parking Area, would be used for one of the trailheads. Due to the disturbed nature of this site, minimal development would be required. The snowmobile parking area off of Highway 230 just south of Mountain Home would be established as the second trailhead. This facility could easily be modified to accommodate day use trail access.