

Recreation Criteria

Biological, geological, soils, social, and management criteria analysis will be used to determine the type, location, and scale of trails and facilities in the Teaway Community Forest. The analysis will guide the process of locating trails and facilities based on the criteria listed below. The criteria listed are limiting factors critical to minimizing impacts to watershed health and wildlife habitat from recreation trails and facilities.

The criteria analysis will be the foundation for identifying locations within the Forest where recreational facilities, motorized trails, non-motorized trails for bikes and horses, and hiking trails can occur with low to moderate impacts or can occur with appropriate mitigation such as seasonal closures and trail design. This suitability assessment will be broad scale and does not replace future site-specific analysis for individual projects as they occur.

Suitability Criteria:

1. *Physical*

- Avoid highly erosive soils.
- Avoid steep slopes.
- Utilize seasonal closures and/or trail design practices to minimize impacts of limited motorcycle use in these areas.

2. *Biological*

- Avoid placing trails in riparian areas or across streams.
 - Buffer riparian areas to avoid impacts.
 - Utilize seasonal closures and/or trail design practices to minimize impacts of limited motorcycle use in these areas.
- Avoid placing trails in streams, select engineered crossings may occur outside of priority restoration areas.
- Do not place trails in wet meadows.
- Place trails away from sensitive wildlife areas.
 - Ex: wolf denning sites, NSO nest sites, elk wintering range
 - Utilize seasonal closures or other appropriate mitigation measures to reduce the impact of limited motorcycle use in these areas.

3. *Social*

- Avoid areas that may impact other landowners or easement-holders.
- Buffer campgrounds and houses to reduce impact from noise.
- Avoid cultural and archaeological resources.
- Avoid conflict with domestic livestock grazing by instituting seasonal closures or restrictions if appropriate.
- Avoid conflicts with other user groups by separating uses where appropriate.

4. *Areas that are found suitable may be appropriate for recreation if the following management measures are in place:*

Teaway Recreation Criteria

Draft of 11/20/2014

- Provide signage and education on noxious weeds and appropriate practices to avoid spreading these weeds.
- Evaluate and approve, disapprove, or improve user-created trails. Restore trails not found suitable.
- Designate trailheads and access points.
- Institute an education and enforcement program
 - Education
 - Use gates, signs, and maps to direct recreationists to appropriate areas.
 - Work with volunteer groups to monitor compliance, maintain trails, and rebuild trails to reduce impact to watershed health.
 - Work with user groups to educate recreationists about their opportunities and how to responsibly recreate in the area.
 - Enforcement
 - Fund a law enforcement officer for the area.
 - Report infractions to the agencies, the advisory committee, and the user groups.
- Monitoring
 - Conduct surveys to verify compliance with open and closed areas.
 - Conduct surveys to measure erosion, streambank alteration, and impacts to wildlife habitat.
 - Report back to the agencies, the advisory committee, and the user groups.
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