

## BLM Issues Decision for Silver City Travel Management Plan

BLM has rendered a Decision for the Silver City Travel Management Plan (TMP).

Based on proposed **Alternative D**, designation as managed routes for public motorized access totals **1,071 miles** of varying route types but almost entirely of full-width character, either seasonally or all-year. Bicycles and over-snow vehicles are required to remain on motorized-designated routes. One additional mile is designated for exclusive non-motorized use.

A table of designations and BLM's PR email follows.

Timeline for implementation of the TMP Decision is unknown at this point.

Additional information, maps, and documents are available at BLM's E-Planning site for Silver City at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/98128/510>.

**Grand View** remains the final of five Owyhee County TMPs to be Decided by BLM in this combined precess.

The comment period for that [Grand View TMP](#) Environmental Assessment **has been extended to April 15** as of today.

Silver City Route Designations based on Alternative D:

**Table 1. Route Designation Summary**

Designation	Mileage	Definition
Open	1,022	Open to public motorized use.
Seasonal Closure	45	Closed to public motorized use during certain seasons or times
ATV/UTV	3	Limited to use by technical 4x4 capable motorized vehicles, 65 inches or less.
Single Track	1	Limited to single track uses, such as motorcycle, bicycle, or e-bikes.
Non-motorized	1	Limited to non-motorized uses, such as bicycle, horseback, or hiking (no e-bikes).
Authorized Only	8	Limited to administrative motorized use.
Closed	23	Motorized use prohibited.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,103</b>	

  

Designation	Count	Definition
Open	1	Open to public aviation use.
Closed	1	Aviation use prohibited.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	

Regards,  
Alex Ernst  
IDPR - Recreation Bureau

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## **BLM and partners finalize fourth travel management plan in southwestern Idaho**

*Plan expected to reduce user conflicts and protect natural resources*

**BOISE, Idaho**—After extensive work with local partners, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today finalized the fourth of five plans that taken together will define a comprehensive system of existing motorized routes through Owyhee County in southwestern Idaho. The Silver City Travel Management Plan ensures access for hiking, biking, and off-highway vehicle use, while also supporting working rangelands and minimizing user and resource conflicts.

The BLM analyzed comments from the public and partners including motorized user groups, Tribes, and various state and federal agencies in developing the plan that designates 1,103 miles of BLM-managed routes within Owyhee County. Designated routes are defined by more than physical characteristics such as paved surfaces, but also consider usage, size, condition, and popularity. The BLM designated 1,071 route miles as open for motorized vehicles, providing access to 425,000 acres of BLM-managed public land.

“We relied upon input from interested organizations and the public during the decision-making process to understand different perspectives and specific concerns,” said **BLM Acting Owyhee Field Manager Jarod Blades**. “The result is a transportation network that balances access needs, impacts from access points and routes, and the quality of various recreational experiences.”

Under the plan, the BLM will decommission and restore approximately 23 miles of trails and roads, both paved and unpaved, to their natural state. This decision was informed by detailed evaluations of each route, accounting for factors such as usage, condition, and environmental impact. The process prioritized routes that could naturally regenerate, with additional restoration efforts contingent on available funding. By reducing route density, this initiative aims to protect wildlife, native plants, and cultural resources, thereby creating a more sustainable network for public access.

The BLM has been analyzing five segments of Owyhee County for travel management planning. Silver City is the fourth plan to be approved and will be followed by Grand View. The goal is to complete all plans by spring 2024.

The BLM allowed the public a chance to review and weigh in on alternatives to the plan during a 30-day public comment period this winter. The final plan and decision record are available at the [BLM National NEPA Register](#). For additional information, please contact Jarod Blades at 208-896-5912.