



File Code: 7700

Date: December 6, 2016

White River National Forest All Employees

Dear White River Employees,

This letter is in response to ongoing internal and external questions regarding implementation of the White Rivers 2011 Travel Management Plan(TMP) Record or Decision (ROD) related to ATV, UTV's and motorcycles that have been converted to operate over-snow for use during our winter season (November 23-May 20th). It is my intent that this letter sets forth direction on how to communicate, implement and enforce our TMP decision related to this specific topic.

The White River's TMP decision was originally put into place to address concerns by the snowmobiling community who feared that these modified vehicles would potentially tear up the groomed snowmobile routes and/or cause safety issues as different types of modes of transportation would occur on the same groomed routes. The jury is still out on these two issues with arguments still being made on both sides. However, since our TMP decision the State of Colorado and the Forest Service nationally have both updated and/or clarified their definitions to bring these modified vehicles under the same umbrella as snowmobiles designed to operate over the snow.

State of Colorado Snowmobile Statute (33-14-101. Definitions): "Snowmobile" means a self-propelled vehicle primarily designed or altered for travel on snow or ice supported in part by skis, belts or cleats. "Snowmobile" does not include machinery used strictly for the grooming of snowmobile trails or ski slopes." The USFS definition for over-snow vehicles is defined as: "a motor vehicle that is designed for use over the snow and runs on tracks and/or ski or skis while in use over snow."(36 CFR 212.1).

After much discussion and consideration I have decided to interpret our direction regarding altered or modified OHV's in our winter travel management as follows:

The White River National Forest will apply Colorado State Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) definition in principle, as it exists on December 1, 2016, for snowmobiles and for UTV's, ATV's and motorcycles that have been altered for over-snow vehicle use as a legal over-snow vehicles for the purpose of enforcing winter travel management on our Forest. Currently registered/stickered 62" width, or less, over-snow vehicles will be allowed on routes and in areas as displayed on the White River's Winter Motor Vehicle Use Maps as open to winter motorized travel. If in some site specific locations trail conditions warrant over-snow vehicles needing to be 50" or less, signing should identified and placed in partnership with our snowmobile clubs.

This direction is specific to modified motorized OHV's and does not include or alter other decisions made for the winter season in the 2011 TMP ROD. Machines such as snow cats, snow coaches or other larger passenger motor vehicles converted with tracks for over-snow use are

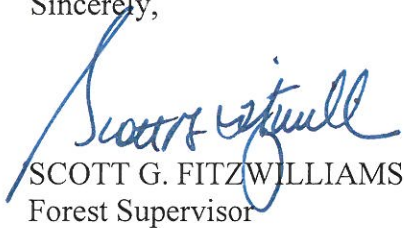


prohibited from groomed routes unless authorized and equipped to operate a grooming implement that is designed to groom the trail behind the machine. This is due to mixed use safety concerns as well as the Forests stated intent to sustain our partner's investment in groomed snow surfaces. Vehicles wider than 62" unless granted through permit or other authorizations will continue to be prohibited.

Because CPW considers these modified summer OHV's as snowmobiles by definition in the winter, they require that these over-snow vehicles also obtain a snowmobile sticker for use over the snow through their registration program. Under State law, the summer OHV sticker does not apply in winter time over the snow.

For additional information or questions please contact Kay Hopkins @ 970-945-3265. Thank you for helping to ensure the White Rivers TMP is successfully communicated and implemented on the ground to ensure that our visitors can continue to enjoy their National Forests while sustaining our partner's hard work in supporting a host of winter activities across the forest.

Sincerely,



SCOTT G. FITZWILLIAMS
Forest Supervisor