

Alternative 2 (Motorized Emphasis)

Alternative 2 was developed to address issues 4, 7, and 8. It adds key roads and routes identified by several members of the public, including the Middle Fork Road. It is similar to alternative 1 in that it adds existing routes to the designated system for the purposes of accessing dispersed camping, adds corridor to some designated routes for the purposes of accessing dispersed camping and big game retrieval, and adds seasonal restrictions to protect soil and water and wildlife resources. Alternative 2 would:

Add approximately 2 miles of the existing Exploration Trail (Forest Road 491 and connection to Forest Road 54C) to motorized use.

Add approximately 1.5 miles of existing unauthorized routes in the vicinity of Bonito Canyon (at the junction of Forest Roads 134 and 597) for the purposes of accessing dispersed camping with motorized vehicles.

Add approximately 3 miles of existing routes in use but not part of the transportation system along Forest Road 54 to Forest Road 134 (sections 13, 14, 23, 24).

Add approximately 2 miles of existing roads in use but not part of the transportation system in the vicinity of Pioneer Canyon, Goose Creek Road, Cabresto Canyon, and Sawmill for the purposes of access to dispersed camping and other activities.

Add approximately 8 miles of existing closed roads in the vicinity of Largo Canyon to provide route linkages and public access around private lands.

Add approximately 2 miles of trail designated for motorcycle use only in the vicinity of the Elephant Rock motorcycle loop to enhance the motorcycle experience.

Add approximately 2 miles of existing unauthorized road in the vicinity of Trail Canyon (UD7121 to UD120 in section 24) west of Mallette Canyon to provided additional motorized opportunities.

Add approximately 2 miles of Middle Fork Road as open to all motorized vehicles.

Add approximately 1 mile of existing unauthorized road in the vicinity of Flag Mountain as open to all motorized uses.

Add a 150-foot corridor for motor vehicle use along 50 miles of designated roads in the vicinity of Cebolla Mesa and Largo Canyon for the sole purpose of dispersed camping and downed big game retrieval. The corridor width addresses soil protection in low elevation pinyon-juniper vegetation.

Remove 2 miles of existing 100-foot corridor (for a total of 34 miles) for the purpose of dispersed camping and downed big game retrieval.

Maintain Forest Road 490 (Fourth of July Road) as open to all classes of motorized vehicle use.

Close Forest Road 54B approximately 0.5 mile before the private land boundary to discourage trespass and provide a good location for parking.

Close 11 miles of road district wide. The roads are in the vicinity of Midnight Meadows, Mallette Canyon, Bitter Creek, Cerro Negro, Pioneer Creek, Deer Mesa, Pinabete, and Middle Fork due to lack of access through private lands and/or resource concerns.

Manage motorized use on 131 miles of designated road as limited to parking adjacent to designated roads.

Prohibit motor vehicle use from January 1 to April 30 on approximately 71 miles of designated roads in the vicinity of Cebolla Mesa, Pioneer Creek, Foster Park and Forest Road 488 for soil and water and wildlife habitat protection. Forest Road 9 in the Cebolla Mesa area would be open year-round.

Prohibit motor vehicle use from January 1 to August 15 on designated roads in the vicinity of Flag Mountain for wildlife habitat security.

Prohibit motor vehicle use from January 1 to April 30 on designated roads in the vicinity of Midnight Meadows for wildlife winter habitat security and from May 1 to June 15 for elk calving habitat protection.

Table 2. Alternative 2 (Motorized Emphasis)			
Miles of road designated for motor vehicle use (Close 14 miles of road district wide. The roads are in the vicinity of Midnight Meadows, Mallette Canyon, Bitter Creek, Cerro Negro, Pioneer Creek, Deer Mesa, and Pinabete, .5 mile FR 54B, add 12 miles Exploration Trail, Bonito Canyon, Pioneer Canyon, Goose Creek, Cabresto Canyon, Sawmill, Largo Canyon, Trail Canyon, and Flag Mountain.)	217	Add 12 Close 14	215
Miles of road with 300-foot corridor designated for motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping and big game retrieval.*	0	0	0
Existing Proposed Resulting System Changes System Miles of road with 150-foot corridor designated for motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping and big game retrieval (Cebolla Mesa, Largo Canyon).	0	Add 50	50
Miles of road with managed access to designated dispersed campsites (short spur roads to designated campsites).	0	0	0
Miles of road with 100-foot corridor designated for motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping and big game retrieval (scattered district wide).	36	Add 2 Remove 4	34
Miles of road with no corridor designated for motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping and big game retrieval (parking limited to adjacent to the road, district wide).	181	Remove 50 miles of no corridor	131
Miles of trail designated for motor vehicles 50 inches or less in width.	0	0	0
Miles of trail designated for motorcycle use only (Elephant Rock motorcycle loop).	19	2	21
Areas (acres) open to motorized cross-country travel.	0	0	0

* Since 1997, a forest supervisor's special order has restricted motorized vehicles to designated open roads with a 100-foot corridor on either side of the roadbed on 36 miles of road in the vicinity of Midnight Meadows, Pioneer Canyon, Placer Creek, Goose Creek and Taos Ski Valley.