



ITMA Newsletter:

Christmas Edition 2016

2017 State Ride: Second Announcement!

The 2017 State Ride will take place at the High Creek Corrals on the Fairfield Ranger District of the Sawtooth National Forest from July 19—23, 2017. This riding area is located about 25 miles north of Fairfield along the South Fork of the Boise River very near to the Methodist Camp. This is the same



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all our fellow dirtbikers. The ITMA wishes you safe travels and some quality family time during the holiday season. Hopefully those of you in our snowy parts of the state are not suffering from parked motorcycle syndrome. Let's hope that 2017 brings us all some quality riding time.



BLM Releases Environmental Assessment for Canyonlands East & Birds of Prey NCA Travel Plans

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the environmental assessment (EA) for the Canyonlands East and Birds of Prey NCA Travel Plan. The BLM is requesting comments on these proposals by December 16, 2016. More information about the Canyonlands East EA and maps of the alternatives can be found at <http://bit.ly/2gdU8Ug>; more information about the Birds of Prey NCA EA and maps of the alternatives can be found <http://bit.ly/2eX3nmS>.

Each EA provides 4 alternatives; A, B, C, and D. Alternative A is no action – motorized use is restricted to existing routes. 1,451 miles of open routes excluding 70 miles are State Highway 51 for the Canyonlands East Travel Plan. The Birds of Prey Planning Area has 346 miles which does not include the motorized routes provided by the Southern Idaho Desert Racing Association (SIDRA).

Alternative B is the most restrictive and has the most closure. It emphasizes resource protection over access. In the Canyonlands East, this alternative provides 550 miles of roads and trails open to motorized vehicles either on a seasonal or yearlong basis. The Birds of Prey in this alternative provides 160 miles of motorized routes.

Alternative C proposes to balance motorized access with the protection of the area's natural, scenic, and cultural resources in both planning areas. In this alternative, Canyonlands East provides 854 miles of routes open to motorized use on either a yearlong or seasonal basis. The routes that the OHV community provided were not included in this alternative in Canyonlands East. The Birds of Prey provides 224 miles of motorized routes (this excludes highways).

Alternative D provides the most motorized routes under all the action alternatives, but less than Alternative A – no action. The Canyonlands East Alternative D provides 1,168 miles of motorized routes either on a yearlong or seasonal basis. It is important to note, that the routes the OHV community submitted were included for designation in this alternative.

In the Birds of Prey area, Alternative D provides 305 miles of motorized routes designated either yearlong or on a seasonal basis.

Here are the seasonal restrictions and reasons. These are closures to motorized vehicle during these times.

- Greater sage-grouse lekking: March 25–May 15, from 5:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.
- Bighorn sheep lambing: April 15–June 15, 24 hours
- Sensitive plant species: March 15–October 15, 24 hours

The decision to have a seasonal closure for sensitive plant species seems unusual being that all motorized travel will be restricted to designated routes. Our use would not impact these species unless they happened to be growing in the middle of the trail.

The biggest issue with these plans is that they fail to identify any single-track motorized opportunities. Information about existing single track motorized routes was provided to the BLM, but these routes were not analyzed during the planning process.

Another issue with these plans is that the cherry stem routes into wilderness areas were not considered for designation. Congress has deemed that these routes provide valuable access to the wilderness areas and should be included in this process.

Please submit your comments to oma_trans_wild@blm.gov by December 16, 2016.



The ITMA is still working on becoming an AMA chartered club in order to provide more affordable insurance option for the state ride and other potential ITMA events. To do this we need you to send us a list of your club members who also have an AMA membership, their AMA membership numbers, the date of the expiration of their membership, and the zip code that they reside in. Please send these lists to marc@nohvcc.org or call him at 208-416-3557.



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January 27, 2017 – All grant applications must be received by IDPR by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. Applications received after the deadline are automatically ineligible to compete for funding.

If your club is planning on applying for grant funding for trail projects you are working on please make sure to have your application in on time.

No late applications will be accepted.

