

TRAILS ALTERNATIVES

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Goals:

1. Manage trails to provide access to public lands, recreation, and subsistence opportunities.
2. Manage trails to provide a diversity of trails experiences and opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized.
3. Manage trails to minimize resource impacts.
4. Manage trails with an emphasis on education where appropriate.

Objectives:

1. Designate areas as open, limited, or closed to OHV use. Open, limited, and closed determinations will be made based on resource considerations, and will be consistent with other resource values and uses in the area.
2. Recognize asserted RS-2477 routes as designated routes (within “limited” areas).

Inventory and Monitoring: These monitoring/assessment projects would be common to all action alternatives:

1. Trail inventory and assessment work will continue, with an emphasis on those areas identified as “limited”. Inventory and assessment will be necessary in these areas to identify all existing trails and assess trail density and resource impacts (if they occur). This information will be used in implementation level designation of specific trails. Inventory and assessment information will also be used to prioritize trail maintenance needs.
2. Through contract and survey, characterize trail users, their perception of resource impacts associated with trails (summer and winter), their tolerances of such impacts, user displacement, and tolerance of trail management actions (such as designations, hardening, etc.). Use this information in site-specific implementation decisions regarding designation, construction, or closure of trails.
3. Monitor trail use and expansion in “open” areas. Develop standards in open areas (winter and summer) that would drive need for future limitations such as trail designation.

Implementation-level planning:

1. Each area identified as “limited” to OHVs will have an implementation-level plan done. This plan will show a complete inventory of trails in the area, describe specific resource concerns or conflicts, and describe specific designated trails and conditions of limitations (seasonal, weight or vehicle class, etc). These planning processes will include extensive public, State, and Native coordination. These plans will describe tools necessary for implementation (method of signing specific trails, trailhead development, education/interpretation, map production, and law enforcement). These plans will identify and prioritize specific maintenance needs, as well as opportunities for trail development or loops, both motorized and non-motorized.
2. Each area identified as “closed” to OHVs will have an implementation-level plan done. The plan will describe specific closure conditions (specific areas or trails, seasonal closures, and boundaries of area). These planning processes will include extensive public, State, and Native coordination. These plans will describe tools necessary for implementation (method of notifying the public, trailhead information, map production, and law enforcement).

Land Use Requirements: Permitted activities and uses that involve OHV use will contain stipulations stating that OHV use will be consistent with management in limited and closed areas.

Exceptions within “limited” or “closed” areas:

- Reasonable access will be provided to mining claims and private property. Where possible, this access will be consistent with trail designation in “limited” areas.
- Specific designations within the pipeline corridor do not preclude the use of the corridor for its intended purpose: as a transportation/utility corridor.
- Specific designations need to be consistent will allowable uses on 17(b) easements.

ALTERNATIVES – Trails

DIFFERENCES IN MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE BY ALTERNATIVE				
Management Actions	Alternative A: Current management	Alternative B: Development end of spectrum	Alternative C: Conserve, maintain end of spectrum	Alternative D
Special Areas				
Limited areas	TLAD is only “limited” area.	No limited areas.	All areas identified within ACECs, RNAs, or SRMAs would be limited, including State and Native selected lands within these areas until conveyance occurs. In addition, all unencumbered BLM lands within the planning area would be limited (designated trails).	The following areas would be limited. Specific definitions of limited are included in ACEC, SRMA descriptions: 1) Bering RNA; 2) Delta bison area; 3) Gulkana SRMA; and 4) Delta SRMA. The following area would be limited under interim management until conveyance occurs: 1) Tiegel SRMA; 2) TLAD. The following areas would be limited for lands retained in long-term federal ownership: 1) Nelchina calving area; 2) West Fork ACEC area; 3) Denali SRMA area.

ALTERNATIVES – Trails

Management Actions	Alternative A: Current management	Alternative B: Development end of spectrum	Alternative C: Conserve, maintain end of spectrum	Alternative D
Closed areas	None.	None.	The following areas would be closed: 1) Tonsina sub-unit in Tielkel SRMA, as described in Tielkel SRMA table; 2) Clearwater sub-unit in Denali SRMA, as described in Denali SRMA table. In addition, close unencumbered BLM lands on or adjacent to the Canwell, Castner, and Augustana Glaciers to OHV use (including snowmachines), except for subsistence hunting.	None.
Open areas		All areas open.	All other areas.	All BLM-managed lands outside those listed above.

ALTERNATIVES – Trails

Management Actions	Alternative A: Current management	Alternative B: Development end of spectrum	Alternative C: Conserve, maintain end of spectrum	Alternative D
Maintenance and Enhancement				
17(b) easements	Currently, Lands & Realty program signs, maps, monitors use, and re-aligns some 17-b easements.	Same as D but use a third criteria for prioritization: 3) level of resource damage and controversy.		Continue to identify/sign, map, monitor use, and re-align 17(b) easements, with priority based on: 1) land status of lands accessed by trail—are they BLM-managed, with unencumbered BLM getting first priority; 2) Are the accessed lands, regardless of land status, important to other BLM programs. These criteria will be used to prioritize discretionary actions on 17(b) easements, such as education/interpretation and maintenance.
Education/interpretation				On 17(b) easements, the listed criteria will be used to prioritize need. E/I will emphasize land status, allowable uses, and cultural importance of trails. Work with Ahtna or village corps.
				Other trails/trailheads, education/interpretation opportunities will be discussed in implementation-level plans for “limited” areas.