

GILA NATIONAL FOREST Travel Management Public Meetings

What's "Travel Management," and why should you care? If you hike, camp, fish, backpack or otherwise recreate "quietly" in the Gila National Forest, Travel Management affects you. The Gila National Forest is currently designating a system of recreational routes: roads and trails where motorized travel is permitted, and where it is prohibited. In other words, where off-road vehicles (ORVs) can and cannot drive. If you value the peace and quiet of the Gila National Forest, and want to preserve large areas without the destruction, noise, dust and air pollution of ORVs, please attend one or more of the following meetings, and let the Forest Service know that you want to protect our Forest.

- Thursday, September 11, 6-8 pm, Luna Community Center
- Friday, September 12, 6-8 pm, Quemado School
- Saturday, September 13, 10 am – noon, Reserve Community Center
- Monday, September 15, 6-8 pm, Mule Creek Community Center
- Tuesday, September 16, 6-8 pm, Mogollon Fire House
- Wednesday, September 17, 6-8 pm, Winston Community Center
- Saturday, September 20, 10 am – noon, Las Cruces NM Dept. of Game & Fish office
- Monday, September 22, 6-8 pm, Glenwood School
- Tuesday, September 23, 6-8 pm, Alma Grill
- Wednesday, September 24, 2-7 pm, Wilderness District office in Mimbres
- Wednesday, September 24, 6-8 pm, Hillsboro Community Center
- Thursday, September 25, 6-8 pm, T or C Black Range District office
- **Saturday, September 27, 10 am – noon, Gila National Forest office on 32nd St. Bypass in Silver City**

Can't make any of these meetings? Email your comments to the Gila National Forest Travel Management Coordinator Lisa Mizuno, at: lmizuno@fs.fed.us, to the Gila National Forest Supervisor Dick Markley, at: rmarkley@fs.fed.us, and to Silver City District Ranger Russell Ward, at rdward@fs.fed.us

HERE'S the CRASH COURSE (so to speak!) in OFF-ROAD VEHICLES:

Adverse impacts of off-road vehicles:

- damage to riparian (stream side) habitat, the most important ecosystem in the arid Southwest
- harm to native vegetation, and spread of invasive weed seeds into previously remote areas
- decreased water quality & degradation of aquatic habitat
- impairment of wildlife habitat & disruption of wildlife behavior
- noise, dust and air pollution
- severe soil loss and erosion
- damage to archaeological sites
- conflicts with “quiet” users, such as hikers, equestrians, campers, anglers, etc.
- decreased quality of life for neighbors of the Gila National Forest

What we want from the Gila National Forest:

- ORVs must stay on designated routes
- riparian areas (including dry washes with restoration potential) should be off-limits to ORVs
- ORVs should be prohibited where they degrade wildlife habitat
- a quiet “buffer zone” adjacent to neighbors of the Forest
- large areas, without ORV routes, where wildlife thrive and natural quiet prevails
- a road density of no more than one mile of road per square mile of Forest (not including Wilderness areas, where motorized vehicles are prohibited)

For more information on the meetings, you can reach the Gila National Forest at 575.388.8267.

For information on ORVs, and how you can help protect the Gila, please call the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance at 575.535.2519 OR visit www.ugwa.org