



**Colorado's forests are slated to lose thousands of miles of roads through the new OHV Route Designation process.**

**DON'T LET IT HAPPEN!**

This packet identifies many roads that you may lose if you don't act.

All you have to do is fill in your name and address and mail this in to the address provided and you're laying the groundwork to keeping your trails open.

Please don't delay, the Forest Service must receive this by September 1, 2006.

(Please remove this sheet before mailing.)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attn: Tony Edwards  
USDA Forest Service  
Pike & San Isabel National Forests  
2840 Kachina Drive  
Pueblo, CO 81008

Dear Mr Edwards:

I am concerned about the OHV Route Designation the Forest Service (FS) is undertaking. My concern stems from reviewing the current Pike National Forest (PNF) map and comparing it to topographical maps and what's actually "on the ground" in the areas I know. To aid in this effort I have taken the liberty of marking the FS map by highlighting 8 areas of concern. Each mark includes a number that is a reference to the numbers in this letter. Also, where possible, I have indicated in a rough manner what the trail looks like.

I would also like you to know that there seems to be a tendency of non-motorized users to perceive much more user-conflict than four-wheelers. You should note that we are happy to share the road and give right-of-way to smaller vehicles such as ATV's and motorcycles and we are considerate and sensitive to the needs of horses. If you happen to be confronted with user conflicts from the non-motorized community, please consider mitigating their concerns by educating them on the availability of areas in our forest that can meet their need for quiet and solitude, such as roadless areas, areas categorized as semi-primitive non-motorized, or designated Wilderness areas.

Please note that the experiences I get when I go wheeling in the PNF are not available on private lands or in OHV parks as there are none in this area. Therefore, my experiences are not available through other suppliers in this forest's market area and the PNF is the only place that serves as a niche for my recreation. As a result, all of the routes mentioned here should become part of the new OHV designation.

#### **Area 1**

- ⇒ Trail 371 terminates incorrectly as it continues due west at the Y where Emerald Valley Ranch begins. Currently this road is closed approximately 1.5 miles past the Y and the new map should properly reflect the continuation of this trail.
- ⇒ This trail provides access to likely the most unique, diverse, and beautiful canyon near Colorado Springs. It closely hugs a creek and offers several creek crossings, incredibly beautiful views of rock formations high up the hills, and exposure to such beautiful flora as the Lady Yellow slipper Orchid. Also, the terminus of this trail offers an easy turn-around.

## Area 2

- ⇒ This area denotes several spider-web like mining trails that are absent from the current map and should be included as they offer diverse driving conditions and spectacular views.
- ⇒ Just past the start of FSR 381 a trail takes you to a veritable spider-web of connected mining trails. This is not denoted on the current map and should be a designated OHV route because it offers a wonderful opportunity to head deeper into the forest, experience moderately difficult challenges, abandoned structures, and trails that are mostly connected to each other.
- ⇒ Further up 381 a side trail identified on the ground and not on the current map as 626 has been closed to motorized travel. This trail used to be open to OHV use and white arrow signs indicated this. The designation apparently changed and the trail was closed and should reappear on the new map with its original designation.
- ⇒ A bit further up 381 is a quarry. Although 381 continues from that location due north, a drive through the abandoned mining area due east yields interesting challenges to an OHV along with breath-taking views of Colorado Springs and the huge expanse of the prairie. Many additional spider-web like trails exist that lead to obvious mining testing sites that should also become part of the new designation.

## Area 3

- ⇒ This area is identified as Bull Park and appears not to show the continuation to the end congruent with signage on the ground. The trail continues up to a large, unique, and beautiful rock formation. Due west you're afforded an incredible view of Bison Reservoir and mining operations near Cripple Creek. Explorations of the area yield remains of old structures, mining equipment, etc. The trail is quite rocky and a wonderful moderately difficult challenge, which also hugs a wetlands area that, depending on the time of year, offers views of beautiful and rarely seen flora.

## Area 4

- ⇒ This area includes a trail identified as FSR 370C, yet does not appear on the current map. 370C provides likely the most challenging trail close to Colorado Springs. It follows a creek up the mountain and terminates on FSR 379. The termination point allows for further explorations up 379 due west or a return down the mountain due east. This trail offers difficult challenges for specialized OHV vehicles in terms of rocks and dirt moguls; just what serious 4-wheelers look for and can't find anywhere else nearby. Proper identification and OHV route designation of this trail is critically important.
- ⇒ Another trail that doesn't appear on the map heads up the mountain to the left prior to 370C. Locals call this trail Saran Wrap and it offers a short yet difficult rocky section that challenges one's driving ability as it becomes narrow at the top. Importantly, one can elect not to take that section and instead run a parallel trail on higher ground to avoid the rock crawling. This is what makes this trail unique as it provides the driver with a choice depending on his or her mood. The trail continues up the mountain and hugs a wetlands area with a creek and beautiful rock formations adjacent to the trail. You are also afforded an opportunity to hang a left and climb up the mountain a bit farther with a steep and challenging trip back down.

## Area 5

- ⇒ FSR 323 loops around and connects to FSR 324. At the eastern most tip the current map correctly identifies a short section of trail heading due east. The map does not, however, correctly show this trail's continuation down to the Upper Reservoir of Chautauqua Mtn. Beyond the beauty of the trail and incredible vistas, it winds through the forest down to the reservoir and in doing so offers many unique challenges such as deep ruts, tight turns around rocks, and articulation challenges matched nowhere in the Pike National Forest.

### **Area 6**

- ⇒ This section identifies a portion of Rampart Range Road or FSR 300 that is gated. This road can be first accessed due south at Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs. Travel due north would take you to a beautiful area known as Devil's Head with a Lookout and many OHV trails. However, due to the closure visitors from Colorado Springs cannot access that northern area unless they take I-25 for a good stretch first. This unnecessary inconvenience should be corrected by removing the gate and by properly identifying its location.

### **Area 7**

- ⇒ This area is east of FSR 360 and north of the Happy Meadows campground. There are several trails that lead from FSR 360, due east, to the South Platte River. Many of these trails are currently closed, such as FSR 897 and FSR 220. The original rationale for closure was due to erosion stemming from the Hayman fire several years ago. Since these trails are still closed, my fear is that the FS will remove them from the new map. This is a unique area in that it provides a different view of our forest than what you will find closer to Pikes Peak. In addition, since these trails lead down to the river, they provide for wonderful experiences that can only be had on such a beautiful river.

### **Area 8**

- ⇒ This area, just north of the start of the northern section of FSR 220 (Hackett Gulch), also contains several trails that are currently closed. Some are marked on the current map, such as FSR 540, others are not. For the same reasons as mentioned for Area 7, these roads should become part of the new OHV designation.

Thank you for your attention to this writing and I am looking forward to the additional steps taken in the new OHV route designation process.





