

Shepherd Ah Nei Travel Management Plan

Scoping Meeting
June 7, 2004

BLM/FS OHV POLICY

- BLM signed decision in June 2003
- Limits motorized travel to existing roads and trails with some exceptions
- Billings FO selected four areas as high priorities for travel management planning
 - Shepherd Ah Nei—top priority
 - Acton area
 - Pryor Mountains
 - Horsethief area

Background

- 640 acres acquired in land exchange
- Area closed as a result of court order
- BLM ordered to develop a travel management plan
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to be used

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NEPA Process

- Scoping
 - Develop alternatives
 - Analyze impacts
 - Decision
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- PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND INPUT IS CRUCIAL

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Purpose of Scoping

- Public and BLM identify issues and concerns to be analyzed in environmental assessment (EA)
- Suggest alternatives for management

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Issues

- Noise
- Wildland fire
- Wildlife
- Vandalism

MAR 31 2004

Issues

- Cultural resources
- Resource damage
- Litter
- Conflict with other land uses

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A landscape of sand dunes with scattered pine trees and a dirt road. The dunes are light-colored sand, and the trees are green. A dirt road winds through the dunes in the background. The sky is clear and blue.

BLM Goals

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- Continue to provide opportunities for OHV use



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- Comply with court order and reopen area as soon as possible





- Address and mitigate resource concerns

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What can you do?

- Get involved
- Provide comments to assist in developing alternatives
- Work with BLM planning staff

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Schedule

- Scoping comment period ends June 25
- Preparation of plan and EA--throughout summer
- Public meeting on management alternatives--late summer
- Release EA for public review--early fall
- Decision--late fall
- Implementation--ongoing