



CHAFFEE COUNTY
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MEMORANDUM

Date: June 14, 2012
To: Chaffee County Commissioners and Administration
From: Don Reimer, Development Director
Subject: Criteria for Evaluating Specific Road Segments for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use

Background: At the County Commissioners work session on June 6, 2012, the Commissioners discussed criteria that other jurisdictions had utilized in evaluating whether a road segment should be designated for mixed usage, in this case specifically related to OHV use. Representatives from the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Chaffee County Road and Bridge, and Chaffee County Sheriff's office participated in the discussion.

Prior to the work session, staff contacted other jurisdictions to identify criteria. Approximately 10 of Colorado's 64 counties have opened some or all of their roads for OHV use; several of those were contacted. In all cases, regulations required that all drivers be licensed, carry liability insurance, and that the vehicles be registered under the state OHV program.

In no case, did a County indicate that criteria had been used to evaluate whether a road segment was suitable for OHV use. The primary exception was San Miguel County, which did not open roads around the towns within the County until a plan on which roads could be opened was coordinated with the municipality.

Also contacted was the US Forest Service (USFS). USFS provided a document titled "Guidelines for Engineering Analysis of Motorized Mixed Use on National Forest System Roads". This document, printed in December 2005, established criteria and process of documentation for USFS Engineers to evaluate road segments for mixed usage, and if mitigation would be required to facilitate the usage.

In June 2005, Chaffee County staff prepared a memo suggesting criteria that could be used to evaluate roads for OHV use. These criteria were those used by staff to review selected road segments as summarized in the March, 2012 "OHV County Roads Report and Comment Summary" prepared following conclusion of public input meetings held in February 2012.

Suggested Criteria: At the June 6 work session, the Commissioners outlined six criteria to be used for evaluating whether or not a particular roads segment should be opened for OHV use. These are:

1. Traffic volume and potential changes in volume. This would be primarily looked at as typical volumes, but potential peak volumes should also be identified. Each use of the road segment (e.g. pedestrian, bicycle, passenger vehicle, commercial vehicles, OHV) should be evaluated.

2. Infrastructure. Along the road, this would relate to parking availability for trailers and other vehicles. USFS personnel suggested this criterion should also consider camping, sanitation and other facilities and amenities along the road segment or on roads connected to the segment.
3. Private land ownership and residential areas. Review the uses in the area.
4. Vehicle and operator requirements. Vehicles shall be registered in accordance with the State of Colorado program requirements, and operators shall have a valid driver's license and liability insurance. Use is for transport to and from the recreational destination only. This is consistent with Chaffee County Ordinances 2005-01 and 2006-01, and with those adopted by other Counties which have opened roads for OHV use.
5. Road improvements. Are any mitigations required to make the road suitable for additional type of use?
6. Other Agencies. Solicit input from land management agencies in the area of the road segment, including USFS, BLM and Colorado Parks and Wildlife; and also from Chaffee County Road and Bridge and Sheriff's Office.

Road Segment Evaluation Form (DRAFT proposal)

Road Number _____ Segment _____ to _____
 Segment Length _____ Posted Speed Limit _____

Traffic Information:

Type of Use	Current typ. use volume	Current peak use volume	Typ. Use Volume After Change	Peak Use Volume after
Passenger Vehicle				
Commercial Vehicle				
Bicycles				
Pedestrians				
Equestrian				
OHV				
Other (specify)				

Describe source of data and describe methodology for estimates: _____

Road Information:

1. Right of way ownership (easement, fee, width, etc. if deed, Rec. No.): _____

2. Surface description (surface material, condition, width, crown, drainage, shoulders, fencing):

Sketch typical road section within right-of-way in space provided

3. Intersections with other roads and trails (specify whether road or trail is open for OHV use, and describe condition of intersection):

4. Roadside Conditions (vegetation, visibility, fencing, parking, signage):

5. Infrastructure / Amenities Nearby (parking availability, attractions, sanitation, campgrounds, trail routes):

6. Adjacent Land Uses (describe ownership type, residential density, uses and potential conflicts):

7. Agency Comments:

a. Chaffee County Sheriff:

b. Chaffee County Road and Bridge:

c. Colorado Parks and Wildlife:

d. US Forest Service:

e. Bureau of Land Management:

8. Suitability Evaluation (if necessary, identify mitigation measures which could be implemented to reduce potential safety issues and increase suitability):

9. Recommendation:
