



Report Date: October 10, 2013

**Salida Ranger District
Route Inventory Field Work Cycle Report**

Prepared by: Great Outdoors Consultants

Inventory Area Description

Motorized route inventory for the Salida Ranger District was conducted by Great Outdoors Consultants (GOC) and volunteers during a 9 day work cycle from October 2-10, which included 6 days of actual field inventory work. The inventory

area is 169,000 acres in size and is roughly bounded by Buffalo Peaks Wilderness and Pike National Forest to the north; Town of Salida to the south; the Arkansas River to the west; and San Isabel National Forest Boundary to the east. Many roads and trails in the study area are very rocky and there are many site-specific features to document which affected the potential inventory rate. An inventory base camp was established in the Four Mile Area in Mushroom Gulch (Road 308) south of Highway 285/24. Camping on site greatly improved the team's inventory access efficiency and provides shelter for staff.

Work Plan Meeting

A meeting was held on October 3 at the inventory base camp to review the inventory work plan which includes schedule, responsibilities, reporting, standards, inventory objectives, equipment, methods, protocols, communication, and deliverable products. US Forest Service staff we not able to attend the meeting due the government shutdown. The following people participating in the meeting

- Drew Stoll, GOC
- David Chester, GOC
- Mark Newby, GOC
- Wendell Alumbaugh, High Rocky Riders
- Chuck Burton, High Rocky Riders
- Dudley Fecht, Friends of Four Mile

The following table provides a record of field inventory participants and dates.

Field Inventory Participants	Affiliation	Dates
Drew Stoll	GOC	October 3, 4, 7, 8, 9
David Chester	GOC	October 3 - 9
Mark Newby	GOC	October 3 - 6
Wendell Alumbaugh	High Rocky Riders	October 3, 8
Chuck Burton	High Rocky Riders	October 3 - 6
Dudley Fecht	Fiends of Four Mile	October 3, 4, 5, 7, 9

Bob Daniel	High Rocky Riders	October 7, 9
Eric	Colorado Parks & Wildlife	October 3 - 6
Trevor	Volunteer	October 6

Inventory Summary

A total of 338 miles of motorized routes were inventoried and 1,907 photos of these routes were collected during the work cycle. On average, 55 miles of routes and 317 geotagged photos were collected each day with 2 inventory crews. These statistics are based on the preliminary findings before data cleanup.

Approximately 2250 combined miles were traveled by all the participants on motorcycles and ATVs during the work cycle. Of these, volunteers rode roughly 1350 combined miles to help with route inventory.

Geotagged photos are processed to create a GIS dataset that is attributed with photographic information, photo subject (i.e. campsite), geographic coordinates, and compass direction. The geotagged photos and resulting GIS points represent site specific resources and conditions. A list of the geotagged photos is provided in this report. Geotagged photos can be opened directly in Arcmap using the [GPS Photolink Tool](#). While the full photo processing software must be purchased, the Photolink Tool for Arcmap can be installed and used for free.

Preliminary Route Inventory Summary	
Route Type	Miles
Full Size Vehicle MVUM Road	208
ATV MVUM Trails	27
Motorcycle MVUM Trails	6
Non-System Routes	81
Administrative/ Special Use Roads	6
Closed Roads	3
Non- USFS Roads	8
Total	338



Note: These are preliminary totals by type, these will change after routes are correctly categorized. Some routes currently categorized as non-system are like special use roads.

Lessons Learned

Overall, the area has a good diversity of motorized roads and trails. The area would benefit from connecting dead-end roads to other roads or trails to create loops. Some routes on the MVUM map are horizontally inaccurate and so the new GPS data will greatly improve the accuracy of future MVUM maps.

In some cases, inventory crew members made field judgments on route classification. For example, if routes led to a gate at private property these roads were classified as “special use administrative roads.” Road classifications will need to be carefully reviewed and edited by the Ranger District as part of data review. Most non-system routes are dirt bike trails that seem to be created by visitors in the vicinity of system motorcycle trails. There are some administrative closed roads that were not inventoried due to locked gates (no keys were available). Volunteers greatly increased route inventory productivity by supporting GOC inventory crew members and providing local knowledge of trails and conditions.

In most cases, downed trees were not removed by inventory staff. Downed trees can be passed quickly with the help of other crew members by lifting the front tire over the tree and sliding the motorcycle along the skid plate. While these are a temporary condition, a GIS point file will be provided to the Ranger District to show where trees need to be cleared. Many of these trees are being cleared by trail users but they also lead to off-route travel as visitors ride around the trees. Some administrative roads have down trees blocking them. Routes, signs, campsites and other features were inventoried in the Trout Creek area on the State Trust Lands. This was completed to understand use in this area and to see if that use extends onto Forest lands. BLM motorized travel routes and associated infrastructure in the northwest Four Mile Area were inventoried to have up to date data for the area adjacent to Forest lands.

There are a few inconsistencies with what is shown on the MVUM map and what exists on the ground. Additional inconsistencies may be identified during processing and these will be recorded in the final project report. Preliminary specific route observations include:

- There are many administrative / special use roads that are not signed nor have gates to prevent public use. Many of these road provide access to private property or mines.
- Additional and newer route number signs are needed to reinforce public use routes. These locations will be identified in the draft report.
- Road 183: missing route sign at intersection with Road 185, beginning of road actually connects to Road 185 – shown connecting to Road 175 on MVUM; the left fork of the road is signed as 182 – MVUM labeled as 183.A
- Road 184: a sign indicates that 184 dead-ends in Turrit, but the road continues to the north and there is no route number sign indicating the route is open
- Road 185.DB: The road closed posted as 1435 – non-motorized trail
- Road 309: A road that connects 309 to 309.A is signed as 309.B at both ends but is not shown on the MVUM

Next Steps

1. Process inventory data to assure accuracy and completeness - November
2. Produce the draft products and deliver to the Ranger District - November
3. Meeting in Salida to review preliminary products and identify final edits - December
4. Deliver final products - December



Map of Inventoried Routes

Inventoried Routes: Red Lines

Photo Points: Yellow Dots

