

**Forest Service Handbook
National Headquarters - Washington Office
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Handbook 7709.55 – Travel Planning Handbook
Chapter - Zero Code**

Amendment: 7709.55-2016-1

Effective date: July 11, 2016

Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

Superseded Directive: 7709.55_zero_code, Amendment 7709.55-2010-1, April 23, 2010

Approved by: Glenn P. Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief, NFS

Date approved: July 6, 2016

Responsible Staff:

Explanation of changes: Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

Zero code: Incorporates new regulations to require designation of roads, trails, and areas on NFS lands to provide for over-snow vehicle (OSV) use. The direction is amended to require the Responsible Official to designate NFS roads, NFS trails, and areas on NFS lands where OSV use is allowed in administrative units or Ranger Districts, or parts of administrative units or Ranger Districts, where snowfall is adequate for OSV use to occur at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 212, Subpart C. Notice of final rule was published in the Federal Register on January 28, 2015 (80 FR 4500).

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Guidance documents lack the force and effect of law, unless expressly authorized by statute or incorporated into a contract. USDA may not cite, use, or rely on any guidance that is not available through their guidance portal, except to establish historical facts.

Travel planning is the interdisciplinary process of identifying the access routes and travel methods needed to effectively and efficiently meet the management objectives for a defined area. This handbook describes many of the activities involved in travel planning. Chapter 10 provides direction on travel planning for the designation of roads, trails, and areas for motor vehicle use. Chapter 20 describes the travel analysis process. Travel analysis is used to inform decisions related to identification of the minimum road system needed for safe and efficient travel, for administration, utilization, and protection of National Forest System lands, and to inform decisions related to the designation of roads, trails, and areas for motor vehicle use. Chapter 30 provides direction on analysis of risks involved in decisions to designate routes for motorized mixed use.

Travel planning considers all forms of access, such as roads, trails, airfields, railroads, and waterways to serve a variety of resource uses. Travel planning also addresses the designation of motor vehicle use under 36 CFR Part 212, Subpart B, and over-snow vehicle (OSV) use under 36 CFR Part 212, Subpart C.

02 - Objective

1. To provide sustainable access to NFS lands in a manner that is environmentally, socially, and economically responsible and that provides for the administration, protection, utilization, and enjoyment of NFS lands and resources consistent with the applicable land management plan.
2. To manage the Forest transportation system, including motor vehicle use on NFS roads and NFS trails and in areas on NFS lands, within the environmental capabilities of the land.
3. To manage the Forest transportation system to address user safety, convenience and efficiency of operations in an environmentally responsible manner and, where needed, to restore ecosystems along NFS roads and NFS trails designated for motor vehicle use within the limits of current and anticipated funding levels.
4. To designate NFS roads, NFS trails, and areas on NFS lands for motor vehicle use under 36 CFR Part 212, Subpart B, and OSV use under 36 CFR Part 212, Subpart C.
5. To make appropriate use of transit and intermodal transportation systems when they best meet the need for transportation to NFS destinations in a sustainable and environmentally acceptable manner.

See FSM 7702 and FSM 7710.2.

03 - Policy

Determine the minimum road system needed for safe and efficient travel and for administration, utilization, and protection of NFS lands, using travel analysis (36 CFR 212.5(b); FSM 7703; FSM 7710.3; FSH 7709.55, ch. 20).

05 - Definitions

See 36 CFR 212.1 and FSM 7705 for definitions.

06 - Forest Road ATLAS

A Forest Road Atlas is a key component of the Forest Transportation Atlas. Direction regarding the contents of the Forest Road Atlas is in FSM 7711.2. In addition to that direction, the Forest Road Atlas must contain the following data for each permanent authorized road:

1. Route number.
2. Beginning mile post.
3. Ending mile post.
4. System.
5. Jurisdiction.
6. Development status.
7. State.
8. County.
9. Congressional district.
10. Administrative Unit (region, forest, and ranger district).
11. Functional class.
12. Number of lanes.
13. Surface type.
14. Primary maintainer.
15. Operational maintenance level.
16. Objective maintenance level.

The Washington Office Director of Engineering may establish and update additional requirements for the content of a Forest Road Atlas. These requirements may be posted at a convenient location, such as the Intranet website of the Travel Routes Roads User Board at http://fsweb.r6.fs.fed.us/eng/travel_routes/user_board/