



## Dakota Prairie Grasslands May 2024

### What is Travel Management?

The Forest Service Road system consists of over 371,000 miles of road, which connects America's National Forests and Grasslands to the nation and enables private investment and opportunities for thousands of Americans. While funding for the maintenance of these roads has declined throughout the past decades, public demand has increased. It is recognized that Forest and Grasslands roads provide benefits for outdoor recreation, agriculture, permitted resource extraction activities, and public safety. However, these same roads can degrade resources, be unsafe for vehicle traffic when not properly designated and maintained, and result in conflicts with commercial users and private landowners.

In 2005, The Forest Service developed a road management strategy when the [Travel Management Rule \(36 CFR part 212\)](#) was published. The goal is to identify an environmentally and financially sustainable transportation system while meeting public needs. Travel Management is a collaborative process that emphasizes coordination with state, local, and tribal governments, and public involvement.

### What does this mean for the Little Missouri National Grasslands?

Travel Management Plans have been completed on the Sheyenne, Grand River and Cedar River Grasslands. The Little Missouri National Grassland (Medora & McKenzie Districts) is the only unit within the Dakota Prairie Grasslands that still needs to complete Travel Management. While there are three Subparts in the Travel Management Rule, our effort will focus on [Subpart B](#) which requires each National Forest and Grassland Unit to designate motorized use on National Forest System Roads, trails, and areas by type of motor vehicle and time of year.

### Purpose of Travel Management:

Travel Management on the Little Missouri National Grasslands aims to identify and designate the public motorized transportation system. Additionally, this effort will address:

**Administration:** Identify the system needed for emergency response, permitted uses such as livestock grazing and mineral extraction, and private land access on the Little Missouri National Grassland.

**Utilization:** Identify the system needed for current and anticipated motorized recreation activities while also providing for public safety.

**Protection:** Identify the system needed to best protect sensitive areas and cultural resources, enhance wildlife habitat, and preserve healthy rangelands.

Even though there are several considerations for Travel Management planning, ultimately, the road system is looked at as a system that, in many cases, is shared between user groups.

### What is the Product of Travel Management?

The product of Travel Management planning for the Little Missouri National Grassland will be a motorized travel plan and a motor vehicle use map (MVUM) that details which roads, trails, and areas of the LMNG are designated for the public's motor vehicle use.

### Process and Timeline:

During the late fall/winter of 2023-2024, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands initiated an early engagement effort with Tribal, Federal Agencies, State and County Governments, to introduce the Travel Management planning effort on the Little Missouri National Grasslands and to learn about their concerns and answer questions. We will be embarking on the public-facing process soon.

We will take the information we receive during early engagement to develop our proposed action and initiate the NEPA process which includes more formalized public involvement.

The process from early engagement to completion of a Motor Vehicle Use Map will take approximately 2-1/2 years.

### Interested in Staying Engaged?

Any interested person should sign up for [GovDelivery](#) to receive emailed notifications on upcoming public engagement opportunities.