

# SCREENING CRITERIA FOR NEW OHV AREAS

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The following is a checklist of minimum considerations for the location of new OHV systems. Screening Criteria is based on 36CFR 295 and FSM 2355. Proposed OHV areas must meet all criteria:

## OHV SCREENING CRITERIA

1. Must be compatible with Management Prescription Direction  
Explanation: Management Prescriptions limit OHV or motorized use in various degrees. Refer to desired condition statement and standards for each prescription. If all screening criteria can be met the proposed specific areas must then go through the NEPA analysis.
2. Must be compatible with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Class.  
Explanation: OHV use is not compatible with Semi-Primitive non-Motorized ROS class. OHV areas should be located primarily within inventoried Roded Natural (RN) areas.
3. Must be compatible with Special Area Management Direction  
Explanation: When proposed in or near Special Areas
4. Must be compatible with the Management Direction of Inventoried Roadless Areas  
Explanation: When proposed in or near Roadless Areas
5. Must minimize conflict with Wildlife Habitat  
Explanation: This relates to conflicts with the habitat needs of PETS species or the species being emphasized for the area in question. The use would not occur if any identified conflicts cannot be reasonably mitigated.
6. Must minimize conflict with Riparian/Fisheries Habitat  
Explanation: This relates to concerns for proposed areas in sensitive watersheds or riparian areas or with significant fish species [native trout], etc.
7. Must minimize impacts to Steep Areas/Highly Erodible Soils  
Explanation: This is measurable in terms of soil erosion hazard rating from SRI - severe, moderate, slight. Significant amount of Severe acreage would result in not passing the screen. Steep slopes greatly increase construction cost and maintenance problems.
8. Must minimize conflicts with Private Land  
Explanation: The use would not occur if identified conflicts with adjacent private landowners can not be adequately addressed.

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**OHV SCREENING  
CRITERIA****9. Must minimize conflicts with Other Recreation Users**

Explanation: Consider recreation users such as hikers, horseback riders, etc., that are already using the area to a significant extent. A new OHV route/trail would not be developed if it would create a high level of conflict with other recreation users with established use patterns.

**10. Must be operationally feasible and provide desirable OHV user experiences**

Explanation: Potential OHV areas should be accessible to main roads, have enough room to provide staging areas and suitable camping areas, and be large enough to provide at least 25 miles of route in the future. Short, dead end routes do not generally provide adequate user experience and tend to create illegal use in adjacent areas. A logical distribution of areas should also be considered.

