



December 22, 2025

The Honorable Secretary Brooke Rollins
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Chief Tom Schultz
U.S. Forest Service
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins and Chief Schultz:

On behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, the leading business coalition advancing a sustainable and growing \$1.2 trillion outdoor recreation economy for the benefit of all Americans, we are writing to share our unified perspective on the U.S. Forest Service's Travel Management Rule and forthcoming agency action.

Collectively, our members represent over 110,000 American outdoor recreation businesses spanning every activity, many who rely on responsible and sustainable access to America's National Forests. We share a deep commitment to access, stewardship, and predictable management of our public lands and waters. The original intent of Travel Management is something we all agree on—a sustainable network of roads and trails that meets public needs while conserving natural and cultural resources. We also know the current Travel Management process has not fully lived up to these standards and so suggest revising, not repealing, the rule in a way that streamlines the process of designating routes and amending local travel plans in a timely manner.

Opposition to Repealing the Travel Management Rule

We appreciate your commitment to improving travel planning, which is a critical tool to promote high-quality, sustainable recreation on public lands and business certainty for the recreation economy and livelihoods and rural communities who rely on it. While the Travel Management Rule is not perfect, it remains a foundational policy that provides clarity, certainty, and structure for recreation access, resource protection, and land management. A full repeal would:

- Create significant uncertainty for recreation businesses and permit holders,
- Undermine access that has been relied upon for nearly two decades,
- Disrupt established designated-route systems,
- Undermine the local intent/ support that originally went into routes,
- Complicate safety, operations, and supply logistics for numerous recreation-dependent industries, and

- Require rebuilding a complex national framework that is currently functioning—though in need of modernization.

We Support Maintaining the Rule with Targeted, Practical Improvements

Rather than repealing the Travel Management Rule, we encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service to adopt a set of modern, constructive improvements that address long-standing challenges and reflect today’s outdoor recreation, managing healthy forests, and business needs. These recommendations originate from multiple recreation sectors—motorized and non-motorized alike—and represent a strong shared interest in updating and strengthening the existing framework.

1. Establish a Predictable Reassessment Cycle

To restore public confidence and ensure the system remains current, we recommend:

- **An initial comprehensive reassessment** within the first year after an updated rule is finalized.
- Establish **collaborative processes on each Forest (or Ranger District as appropriate) that bring together** all affected stakeholders four times a year. These meetings should provide meaningful opportunities for the public to make recommendations to improve or increase recreational access.
- **Comprehensive reviews of Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) every three years** to evaluate opportunities for trail, route and area expansion, address new recreation patterns, and consider community-submitted proposals. This approach responds to decades of unmet expectations for updates and provides realistic timelines for the agency.

2. Integrate Modern Technology

We encourage the agency to fully utilize widely available tools that can significantly improve accuracy, safety, and reduce staff burden, including:

- Drone-based route and road inventory,
- Public-private partnerships with outdoor recreation technology businesses,
- Implement section 127 of the EXPLORE Act: Motorized and Non-Motorized Access
- Modern GIS/GPS mapping, and
- Digital geospatial platforms for consistent updates and improved wildfire detection and mitigation.

3. Enhance Transparency, Collaboration, and Public Engagement

Improved processes should include:

- Early public engagement opportunities,
- Clear explanation of decision-making rationale, and
- Inclusive consultation with motorized, human-powered, equestrian, outfitter/guide, conservation, and local community stakeholders.

4. Provide Clear Timelines and Accountability

Consistency and predictability are essential for businesses and the recreating public. We encourage:

- Reasonable, enforceable timelines for reassessments,
- Periodic public reporting, and

- Transparent handling of community-submitted data or inventory proposals.

5. Maintain Critical Access for Recreation Businesses

Recreation businesses—including authorized outfitters and guides, tour operators, ski areas, lodges, marinas, resorts, and youth camps and gateway community businesses—depend on stable access routes. Any improvements should ensure continued access for operations, safety needs, and conservation and resource management.

The Outdoor Recreation Business Community Is United and Ready to Work with You

ORR and our members represent a unique business coalition spanning the full spectrum of recreation interests and are aligned on maintaining the Travel Management Rule and modernizing it, rather than repealing it, and working closely with you throughout this process to support our shared vision of a better rule.

We appreciate USDA’s willingness to engage on these issues and welcome the opportunity to participate in the development of an improved, future-ready framework that serves all recreation users, businesses, and partners. We stand prepared to collaborate with the Department and the United States Forest Service as this process moves forward.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to sustainable recreation access on America’s public lands.

Sincerely,

Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR)
 American Horse Council
 American Mountain Guides Association
 American Sportfishing Association
 Archery Trade Association
 CHM Government Services
 iSportsman
 Motorcycle Industry Council
 National Forest Recreation Association
 National Marine Manufacturers Association
 Off-Road Business Association
 Outdoor Hospitality Industry
 Outdoor Industry Association
 PeopleForBikes
 Professional TrailBuilders Association
 Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
 RV Dealers Association
 RV Industry Association
 Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
 Specialty Equipment Market Association
 Specialty Vehicle Institute of America