

The National Forests in Florida



Sign Plan for Motorized Trails

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General Information

1. Once on the Forest, signing and mapping are the two primary media for the Agency to communicate with its customers. It is the Agency's last chance to communicate rules, regulations, and expected behavior. Therefore, it is essential that this communication be clear, concise, accurate, and consistent.
2. This plan is intended to be used as a guide in designing and purchasing signs and materials for trails on the National Forests in Florida. It is intended to allow flexibility and variability depending on specific site conditions.
3. In May 2009, RecConnect prepared an assessment report for the Ocala OHV Trail System. It is highly advised that the signing recommendations in that assessment be incorporated into the final sign plan.
4. In general, this plan will follow the guidance for shapes, colors, sizes, messages, etc found in the US Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and the USDA Forest Service EM-7100-15 Sign and Poster Guidelines (particular attention should be given to Trail Signing in Chapters 5, 5A, and 5B.)
5. Trail Management Objectives (TMOs) should be prepared for all trails and the signing for each trail must be consistent with the TMO.
6. A Sign Warrant should be prepared for each warning and regulatory sign that is not covered in this sign plan. Warrants help provide consistency in signing, generally reduce the number of signs, and can provide protection for the Agency in a tort claim.
7. For safety, durability, and professional appearance, the following general sign specifications are recommended:
 - a. All signs should be reflective or retroreflective.
 - b. All signs should have radius corners.
 - c. All signs should have a border.
 - d. All signs should have brown backs.
 - e. All signs should have pre-drilled holes for attachment.
 - f. All signs should be mounted on posts or markers, not on trees.
 - g. To the extent possible, all signs and especially warning and regulatory signs should be mounted on the right hand side of the trail.
8. Since this area is subject to intense UV radiation, the following are recommended:
 - a. The tops of all signs should be taped.
 - b. All signs with decals, letters, or numbers should be covered with clear plastic tape which wraps over the top of the sign (3M #639). This helps prevent snow shear, protects the sign and decals from UV decay, and protects the sign from damage by cattle, wildlife, or vandalism.

9. At the time of final design or construction, a Sign List should be developed that lists all the signs and markers needed on a particular segment of trail. This list aids in the correct assembly and installation of the signs. Once the signs are installed, GPS coordinates can be added so the Sign List can serve as a complete sign inventory as well as a maintenance tool.
10. Signs up to 18"x18" should be attached to posts with 5/16"x1 1/4" hex head lag bolts with washers. Larger signs should be attached with 3/8"x1 1/2" hex head lag bolts with washers. All signs that are near roads, trailheads, staging areas, campgrounds or other areas with public access should also be attached with two 1 1/4" washer head square drive screws to deter vandalism. To avoid damage to the sign face and decals, the holes for these need to be pre-drilled and care should be taken not to over-tighten the bolts or screws.
11. On trail systems being signed for the first time and especially in those areas where uses and/or use patterns need to be changed, comprehensive signing will be needed to educate, control, and direct use. This will necessitate an above normal level of signing during the initial few years of project implementation. Once the trail system is established and use patterns are changed, the level of signing can be reduced to a more aesthetic and maintainable level.

Types of Signs

Signs provide: information, education, orientation, safety

Basic Sign Types:

1. Administrative: These generally identify who has jurisdiction.

- Federal, State, County, City, Private

2. Recreation Site: These identify the name of the site.

- Roaring Springs Campground
- High Lakes State Recreation Area
- Ocala OHV Trail System

3. Information and Education: These relay the rules, etiquette, information, education, and interpretation.

- Kiosks
- Map Boards
- Trail Signs: Use It, but Don't Abuse It; Stay on Trail or Stay Home;
Please Stay on the Trail, the Future of This Trail Depends on You

4. Travel Management: Identifies who can or can't use the site and restrictions on use.

- This trail is OPEN to horses, hikers, Mtn bikers, CLOSED to all motorized use
- This trail is CLOSED to autos, trucks, 4WDs, OPEN to all other uses
- This trail is OPEN April 1 through November 30
- This trail is CLOSED December 1 through March 31

5. Trail Markers and Guide Signs:

- Trail junction markers
- Reassurance markers
- Destination (Guide) signs: Cottonwood Trailhead 3 miles →
- Points of interest signs

6. Warning Signs: These signs warn of a potential hazard or unusual condition. They are diamond-shaped with black on yellow. It is best to explain what the hazard is rather than just have a sign that says "Caution."

- Trail Groomer Ahead
- Logging Ahead
- Intersection Ahead
- Railroad Crossing Ahead
- Cattleguard Ahead
- Gate Ahead
- Stop Ahead or Yield Ahead

7. Regulatory Signs: These signs inform the users of traffic laws or regulations. Except for stop and yield signs, they are rectangular-shaped with black on white.

- Trail or Area Closed
- Slow, 5 MPH, No Dust
- Stop, Yield
- One Way →

The Key Elements of Signing

Principle #1: If we don't effectively tell the public where they should be and how they should be acting, we can't be disappointed when they go where we don't want them to go and do what we don't want them to do.

1. Need

- Develop a comprehensive Sign Plan.
- Why is a sign needed here and what sign is needed?
- Document those needs on a Sign Warrant.
- Are there any other options:
 - Can the hazard be eliminated or mitigated?
 - Can the trail be realigned or relocated to eliminate the hazard?
 - It's easier to put up a sign than to physically correct the problem, but this is not the best long-term solution.

2. Simplicity

- Keep it simple.
- The public spends very little time reading signs, so make them count.
- Use enough signs, but avoid over-signing.

3. Clarity

- Use clear, concise messages.
- Will the user understand the intent of the sign?
- Use symbols whenever possible, rather than words.

4. Quality

- Use durable materials that are vandal resistant.
- Where needed, make sure the sign is taped to protect it from UV light or snow shear.
- Use professional letters and templates.
- Check for correct spelling.
- The sign and the installation should be neat, legible, straight, and professional looking.
- The public respects quality, but quality does not necessarily equate to expensive.

5. Consistency

- Do all of the signs meet shape, color, reflectivity, and message standards? (if not, document the rationale for changes in a Sign Warrant).
- Are similar hazards/situations signed identically?
- Is your signing consistent with that of other trail systems in your area/state?

6. Placement

- This is perhaps the most critical and abused element.
- Install signs where the users can see them and where they expect to see them (generally on the right hand shoulder of the trail).
- Avoid placing signs in shadows or where they may be obscured by vegetation.
- Place the sign enough in advance of the hazard to allow sufficient time for the user to read it, comprehend it, and react to it.
- The intent is to have professional looking signs, so all signs and posts should be as level or perpendicular as practicable.
- When signing, assume that the user is a beginner, unfamiliar with the trail, and there is poor light and visibility.

7. Monitoring

- Monitor the condition of the signs and supports on a regular basis.
- Check color, reflectivity, placement, and overall effectiveness of the sign.
- Review the signing under a variety of light and weather conditions.
- Use an outsider or someone unfamiliar with your trails and signs to objectively judge the effectiveness of the signing.
- Don't be afraid to take down signs. More signs are needed early in a new program to educate the public, but may not be needed in three to five years.

8. Maintenance

- Repair or replace signs as needed to maintain quality appearance and function.
- Trash begets more trash.
- Bullet holes invite more bullet holes
- Warning and Regulatory signs must be in-place and legible.
- The public respects quality, so it is important to maintain a quality appearance.

Recreation Site Signs

1. Portal Entry/Exit Signs

- a. **Discussion:** These signs are placed at the major entry points to the trail system. They inform the riders and the public that they are entering a managed OHV trail system and that the rules here may be different than elsewhere.
- b. **Message:**
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| ENTERING | LEAVING |
| OCALA | OCALA |
| OHV TRAIL SYSTEM | OHV TRAIL SYSTEM |
- c. **Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective white on brown polyplate or similar material with a brown back. Sign size to be determined by message. Letter size is 5" minimum. See EM-7100-15 Chapter 3 for letter size guidelines. Due to the size of these signs, they are mounted on two 4"x4" treated posts of adequate length to meet the height requirements of the road authority. Below the entry sign is mounted the Forest Service logo of approximate 8"x12" size. Below the sign on the other post is mounted the trail system logo (if there is one) of approximate 8"x12" size.
- d. **Placement:** To be placed at the official entrance(s) to the trail system or recreation site. See requirements for height and distance from road shoulder in USDA Forest Service EM 7100-15 Chapter 3C.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** P56, P73. Similar to below.



1a. Secondary Entry/Exit Signs

- a. Discussion:** These signs are placed at the entry points of secondary recreation roads to the trail system. They inform the riders and the public that they are entering a managed OHV trail system and that the rules here may be different than elsewhere. The intent is not to put these on every road entering the trail system or recreation site, only those that could be potentially used by recreation traffic.
- b. Message:**
- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| ENTERING | LEAVING |
| BEAR CREEK | BEAR CREEK |
| RECREATION SITE | RECREATION SITE |
- c. Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective white on brown polyplate or similar material with a brown back. Sign size to be determined by message. Letter size is 3" minimum. See EM-7100-15 Chapter 3 for letter size guidelines. Sign size to be determined. Signs are mounted back to back on 4"x4" treated posts of adequate length to meet the height requirements of the road authority.
- d. Placement:** To be placed at the official entrance(s) to the trail system area. See requirements for height and distance from road shoulder in USDA Forest Service EM 7100-15 Chapter 3C.
- e. R/C Sign Number:** None. Similar to below.



2. Portal Travel Management Signs

- a. Discussion:** These signs are placed at the major entry points to the trail system. They inform the riders and the public that they are entering a managed OHV trail system and that the rules here may be different than elsewhere.
- b. Message:**
- OHV TRAVEL ALLOWED
ON DESIGNATED
ROUTES/AREAS ONLY
- c. Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective white on brown polyplate or similar material with a brown back. Sign size to be determined by message. Letter size is 5" minimum. See EM-7100-15 Chapter 3 for letter size guidelines. Due to the size of these signs, they are mounted on two 4"x4" treated posts of adequate length to meet the height requirements of the road authority. Below the sign is mounted the Forest Service logo of approximate 8"x12" size.

- d. **Placement:** To be placed at the official entrance(s) to the trail system area, usually 150-200' behind the portal entry sign. See requirements of the road authority for height and distance from road shoulder or USDA Forest Service EM 7100-15 Chapter 3C.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** TRM83. Similar to below.



2a. Secondary Entry Travel Management Signs

- a. **Discussion:** These signs are placed at the entry points of secondary recreation roads to the trail system. They inform the riders and the public that they are entering a managed OHV trail system and that the rules here may be different than elsewhere. The intent is not to put these on every road entering the trail system or recreation site, only those that could be potentially used by recreation traffic.
- b. **Message:**

VEHICLE
TRAVEL OFF
DESIGNATED
ROUTES
IS
PROHIBITED
- c. **Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective green on white 12"x18" polyplate or similar material with a brown back. The bottom of the sign should have the Forest Service, trail system logo, and state OHV program/grant logo if appropriate. The signs should be mounted on 4"x4"x6' treated wood posts.
- d. **Placement:** These signs are placed under the Secondary Entry Signs (1a).
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** Similar to TRM42, but black on white.



3. Specific Recreation Site Signs

- a. **Discussion:** These signs are placed at the entry to each trailhead, staging area, or other facility. These signs identify the site and aid in orientation.
- b. **Message:** To be determined. Example: SOUTH LAVA
 TRAILHEAD
- c. **Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective white on brown polyplate or similar material with a brown back. Sign size to be determined by message. Letter size is 4". See EM-7100-15 Chapter 3 for letter size guidelines Signs are mounted on a 4"x4"x6' treated post. Below the sign is mounted the Forest Service logo or state OHV grant program logo of approximate 8"x12" size.
- d. **Placement:** To be placed at the entry or on the right side of the access road to the site.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** RS122. Similar to below.



Regulatory Signs

1. Yield and Yield Ahead

- a. **Discussion:** Yield signs should be used where trails cross any road with high speed/volume of traffic. These are generally gravel roads or ML3 roads. Stop signs generally are not needed since the goal is for riders to yield rather than stop.
- b. **Materials:** The yield sign should be red/white fully reflective triangular 18"x18" (this size in a triangle has about the same facial area of a 12"x12" square sign). The yield ahead sign should be yellow/black 12"x12" diamond shape with a yield symbol on the face. Both signs should be polyplate or similar material with a brown back and they should be mounted on a 4"x4"x6' treated wood post.
- c. **Placement:** Signs should be placed on the right hand side of the trail about 3' off the trail so there is about 2' of clearance between the shoulder of the trail and the edge of the sign. The yield sign should be placed in a visible location no more than 20' from the shoulder of the roadway. The yield ahead sign should be placed in a visible location about 100-150' from the yield sign. Placement should vary depending on the alignment and speed of the trail. The sign must be placed far enough back to allow the rider time to read, comprehend, and react to the message.
- d. **R/C Sign Number:** R26, W27



2. Stop and Stop Ahead Signs

- a. **Discussion:** Stop signs should be considered on any trails crossing paved roads or state or county roads. Check with the road authority for any specific requirements.
- b. **Materials:** The stop sign should be red/white fully reflective octagonal 12"x12" minimum. The stop ahead sign should be yellow/black 12"x12" diamond shape with a stop symbol on the face. Both signs should be polyplate or similar material with a brown back and they should be mounted on a 4"x4"x6' treated wood post.
- c. **Placement:** Signs should be placed on the right hand side of the trail about 3' off the trail so there is about 2' of clearance between the shoulder of the trail and the edge of the sign. The stop sign should be placed in a visible location no more than 20' from the shoulder of

the roadway. The stop ahead sign should be placed in a visible location about 100-200' from the yield sign. Placement will vary depending on the alignment and speed of the trail. The sign must be placed far enough back to allow the rider time to read, comprehend, and react to the message.

d. R/C Sign Number: R28, W29



3. Reduced Speed Signs

- a. Discussion:** "Idle Speed No Dust" should be installed on all trails and roads leading into primary camp and trailhead areas. Since these are congested areas, these signs should help increase safety and reduce dust in these areas.
- b. Materials:** These signs should be fully reflective rectangular 12"x18" polyplate or similar material with a brown back and they should be mounted on a 4"x4"x6' treated wood post. "Idle Speed No Dust" is in 3" letters. The background is reflective white with black letters and black border.
- c. Placement:** Signs should be placed in a visible location on the right hand side of the trail or road. On trails, they should be placed about 3' off the shoulder so there is about 2' of clearance between the shoulder and the edge of the sign. On roads, they should be placed about 5' off the shoulder so there is about 4' of clearance between the sign and the shoulder.
- d. R/C Sign Number:** R48C or R48



4. Exit Only

- a. **Discussion:** These signs are to be used at the exit points of any one-way trails such as Learner's Loops.
- b. **Message:** EXIT ONLY, DO NOT ENTER
- c. **Materials:** These signs should be white/black fully reflective rectangular 12"x18" polyplate or similar material with a brown back and they should be mounted on a 4"x4"x6' treated wood post. These signs should be reflective black 3" letters on white background with a black border.
- d. **Placement:** Signs should be placed in a visible location on the right side of the trail about 3' off the shoulder so there is about 2' of clearance between the shoulder and the edge of the sign.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** None. Similar to Carsonite 9250PS



5. Street Legal Vehicles Only

- a. **Discussion:** These signs are to be used on Level III Forest Service roads (ML3) or other roads that are not open to OHVs (non-street legal vehicles).
- b. **Message:** STREET LEGAL VEHICLES ONLY, NO OHVs
- c. **Materials:** These signs should be white/black fully reflective rectangular polyplate or similar material with a brown back and they should be mounted on a 4"x4"x8' treated wood post. Letter size and resulting sign size is dependant on the speed of the viewing traffic. See EM-7100-15 Chapter 3 for letter size guidelines. Post size is dependent on the topography, but adequate to meet minimum sign height requirements above the travel way.
- d. **Placement:** Signs should be placed in a visible location on the right side of the road. See guidelines for sign installation height and distance from the travelled way in USDA Forest Service EM 7100-15 Chapter 3C.

- e. **R/C Sign Number:** None. Similar to below, but black on white.



Warning Signs

1. Mixed Use Roads

- a. Discussion:** Mixed Use Roads (MURs) would allow the use of Level III Forest Service roads or other roads by street legal and non-street legal vehicles. MURs provide critical links from an OHV transportation standpoint because they provide legal access from camps or staging areas to the trails. They also help with dispersal of riders throughout the trail system and they allow riders a quick return route to camp if the weather should change, someone gets tired, or if there is an equipment problem. Short segments of a road could be signed as a MUR to take advantage of an existing creek crossing or other road structure. Before any road is used as a MUR, (1) approval must be secured from the road authority, and (2) a brief engineering analysis should be performed that considers safety factors such as traffic volume, traffic speed, road surface, alignment, commercial traffic, etc. This discussion should be documented on the Road Management Objective for each road before it is opened and signed as a MUR. The function of the MUR signs is to inform the general forest visitor to expect non-street legal vehicles on the roadway and to inform the OHV rider that this road is open to OHV travel and to expect to encounter other vehicles.
- b. Message:** OHVs, ON ROADWAY
- c. Materials:** Signs should be 24"x24" minimum diamond shape fully reflective black on yellow polyplate or similar warning signs with a motorcycle recreation symbol. Under this sign, a rectangular fully reflective black on yellow polyplate or similar advisory plate is mounted that says "ON ROADWAY" or "ON ROAD". Letter size is dependant on the speed of the viewing traffic. See EM-7100-15 Chapter 3 for letter size guidelines.
- f. Placement:** The signs are placed at the point where joint use begins and ends. These are generally concurrent with trail crossings or junctions with other roads that are open for OHV use. See guidelines for sign installation height and distance from the travelled way in USDA Forest Service EM 7100-15 Chapter 3C.
- d. R/C Sign Number:** MUR2, MUR6



2. MUR/Trail Intersections

- a. **Discussion:** Where trails cross Mixed Use Roads (MURs), riders need to know if the road is open to them. This is accomplished by installing a MUR sign on the right side of the road on either side (not both) of the trail crossing. This sign also serves as a reminder to the road users that the road is a MUR.
- b. **Message:** OHVs, ON ROADWAY
- c. **Materials:** Signs should be 8"x8" diamond shape fully reflective black on yellow polyplate or similar warning signs with a motorcycle recreation symbol. Under this sign, a white on brown reflective decal mounted on a polyplate slat that says "ON ROADWAY" Letter size is 3".
- d. **Placement:** The signs are placed close enough to the trail crossing so they can be easily seen by riders as they stop at the shoulder of the road.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** MUR2, MUR5



3. Not a Mixed Use Road

- a. **Discussion:** Where trails cross roads that are not shared use and not legal for OHV use, signs need to be installed to inform the riders that the road is closed to their use. This is accomplished by installing a MUR sign on the right side of the road on either side (not both) of the trail crossing.
- b. **Message:** No OHVs, ON ROADWAY.
- c. **Materials:** Signs should be 8"x8" diamond shape fully reflective black on yellow polyplate or similar warning signs with a motorcycle recreation symbol with a red slash. Under this sign, a white on brown reflective decal mounted on a polyplate slat that says "ON ROADWAY" Letter size is 3".

- d. **Placement:** The signs are placed close enough to the trail crossing so they can be easily seen by riders as they stop at the shoulder of the road.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** MUR3, MUR5. An optional sign would be a Street Legal Vehicles Only sign (see Regulatory Signs #5).



4. Two-Way Traffic

- a. **Discussion:** All trails are two-way except for the learner's loops and other specialty trails, so riders need to be warned to expect another rider around the next corner. Two-way trails help reduce speeds which in turn reduces trail maintenance and increases safety. Riders need to be educated to ride defensively and responsibly.
- b. **Materials:** These signs should be yellow/black fully reflective diamond 12"x12" polyplate or similar material with a brown back and they should be mounted on a 4"x4"x6' treated wood post. The sign should have two opposing black arrows with the words "two-way" at the top and "traffic" on the bottom.
- c. **Placement:** Signs should be placed on all kiosks/map boards and on all major trail access points in camp, trailhead, or staging areas. They should be installed on the right hand side of the trail about 3' off the trail so there is about 2' of clearance between the shoulder of the trail and the edge of the sign.
- d. **R/C Sign Number:** W63C



5. Leaving Managed Area

- a. **Discussion:** Since some trail systems will be implemented in phases, these signs will inform the riders when they are leaving a managed (implemented) area and entering an unmanaged area that is not signed or maintained.
- b. **Message:**
- MANAGED
LEAVING
AREA**
- c. **Materials:** These signs should be yellow/black fully reflective diamond 12"x12" polyplate or similar material with a brown back and they should be mounted on a 4"x4"x6' treated wood post. "LEAVING" should be in larger letters and bolder font and "MANAGED AREA" should be in smaller letters with a slighter font. The Forest Service or trail system logo should be placed on the post below the sign.
- d. **Placement:** Signs should be installed on the right hand side of the trail about 3' off the trail so there is about 2' of clearance between the shoulder of the trail and the edge of the sign.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** Similar to below but with the above message.



6. Trail Work Ahead

- a. **Discussion:** These signs are used to warn riders that equipment or personnel may be or has been working in the trail. The trail crew should put these on all trail access points to the area they will be working in. It is not recommended that signs of this type be permanently installed since they will soon be ignored by the riders and their effectiveness will be lost.

b. Message:

CAUTION
**TRAIL WORK
AHEAD**

- c. Materials:** These are 10mm coroplast A-frame sandwich board signs with black letters on a yellow background. For improved durability, the face is sheeted with anti-graffiti film.
- d. Placement:** Signs should be placed in a visible location on the right hand side of the trail immediately adjacent to the trail shoulder.
- e. R/C Sign Number:** W52C.



Trail Markers

1. Junction Marker

- a. **Discussion:** The junction marker should indicate the trail direction, trail number or identifier, and trail difficulty level for the two intersecting trails. To save sign costs, trail names are not recommended. To reduce signage and improve simplicity, names could appear on the map, but have special symbols on the trail markers. On single track trails which intersect with double track trails, the “Single Track, No ATVs” decal should be placed below the difficulty symbol.
- b. **Materials:** The markers should be reflective decals placed on 3 ½”x 19” or 3 ½”x 22” or longer polyplate or aluminum slats with reflective brown sheeting. The slats should have radius corners pre-drilled with a 1/8” hole in the top and a 1/8”x 1” vertical slot in the bottom or a ¼” hole (this allows for expansion and contraction of the slat). The direction arrows should be reflective white on brown 3”x3” decals. The trail numbers should be reflective white 3” Series C stick-on type mounted vertically. The difficulty level should be the standard green circle, blue square, and black diamond symbols. Each completed slat should be covered with 3” clear tape for UV and weather protection. Each junction should have an appropriate number of slats mounted on a 4”x4”x6’ treated wood post. Below the front slat, the Forest Service or trail system logo could be mounted.
- c. **Placement:** The junction markers should generally be placed on the right hand side of the thru trail about 2’ off the trail at the center of the “T”.
- d. **R/C Sign Number:** TM1, TM2, TM3, TM5, TM6, TM7, TMGT104C



2. Reassurance/Intersection Ahead Marker

- a. **Discussion:** These markers warn the approaching rider of an intersection ahead and confirm trail number and trail direction to the departing rider. The intersection ahead warning decal alerts the riders to slow down, prepare for a turn, and watch for turning traffic. The use of these decals greatly reduces “blown” corners and other impacts in the vicinity of trail junctions. Since riders often congregate at junctions, the use of these signs also increases safety by alerting on-coming riders of the junction ahead. On single track trails which intersect with double track trails, the “Single Track, No ATVs” decal should be placed below the trail identifier.
- b. **Materials:** The markers are 5 ½’ dual-sided brown Carsonite or similar material. The approaching side of the marker should have a 3’x 6” reflective yellow decal with a black + intersection symbol. (Note: due to the lack of an appropriate symbol, a ☒ is used in place of a + in the attached Sign List.) The departing side should have a reflective white on brown arrow indicating the appropriate direction with the trail number in 3” numbers beneath it. The Forest Service or trail system logo could be mounted low on the reassurance marker with the bottom of the decal 24” from the bottom of the marker. The Single Track, No ATVs decal is 3”x 4.5”. The decals on both sides should be covered with clear tape.
- c. **Placement:** The markers should be placed on the right side of the approaching trail in a visible location about 100’ in advance of the junction depending on the speed and alignment of the trail. The marker must be placed far enough back to allow the rider time to read, comprehend, and react to the message.
- d. **R/C Sign Number:** TM1, TM2, TM4C, TMGT104C



3. Reassurance Markers

- a. **Discussion:** These markers reassure the rider of the trail number or identifier and the continuing direction of the trail. It is important not to clutter these markers with unnecessary decals so that riders can quickly scan them and get the information they want (the continuing direction of the trail and the trail number or identifier).
- b. **Materials:** The markers are 5 ½' dual-sided brown Carsonite or similar material. Both sides should have a reflective white on brown arrow indicating the appropriate direction with the trail number in 3" numbers beneath it. The Forest Service or trail system logo could be mounted on one side of the reassurance marker. The decals on both sides should be covered with clear tape.
- c. **Placement:** The markers are placed at all road crossings, where trails leave or enter onto roads, before and after sharp turns, or as needed anywhere else to help guide the rider through the trail system. They are not mileage markers and they are not intended to be placed at regular intervals along the trail. They are only used to confirm the continuing direction of the trail at any place where there may be some confusion or where we want to emphasize a change in direction like leaving an existing trail and beginning a segment of relocation.
- d. **R/C Sign Number:** TM1, TM2



4. Trail Closure Markers

- a. **Discussion:** These markers are used to temporarily close a trail for maintenance, resource protection, some type of land management activity, or if a learner loop becomes too wet to be safely ridden.
- b. **Message:** TRAIL TEMPORARILY CLOSED
- c. **Materials:** The markers are 5 1/2' single-sided orange Rock Art Glasflex GFX66-03 or similar material. The sign is a 12"x12" reflective black on yellow diamond-shaped

warning sign. Below the sign is a 3"x 3" reflective brown on white decal "Please Use Other Designated Routes." Below this, the Forest Service or trail system logo could be placed if appropriate. The decals should be covered with clear tape.

or

Signs are 10mm yellow coroplast A-frame sandwich boards with a red STOP sign and black **TRAIL TEMPORARILY CLOSED**.

- d. **Placement:** The markers are placed where needed and appropriate. The most effective placement is in the middle of the trail with logs or debris brought into the trail behind it.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** TMGT19 or TMGT19C. Similar to Scenic Signs E-057.



or



5. Camp Access Only Markers (CAO)

- a. **Discussion:** These markers are used to mark designated trails that access individual camp sites, usually dispersed camps. The intent of these signs is to discourage people from riding into someone else's camp site.
- b. **Message:** DEAD END, CAMP ACCESS ONLY
- c. **Materials:** The markers are 5 1/2' dual-sided brown Carsonite CIB 380 or similar material. The sign can be made up as a decal or make your own with 3" individual letters. The back side generally has the direction arrow and trail number of the main trail. At the camp end of the access trail, a trail marker should be installed which says: "↑ TO TR –". The decals should be covered with clear tape.
- d. **Placement:** The markers are placed at the junction of all camp access trails.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** None

Travel Management Signs

General note: All travel management signs should have the Forest Service, trail system, and state OHV program logos if appropriate at the bottom in a single color of black on white.



1. Allowable Uses

- a. **Discussion:** These signs inform the recreationists which modes of travel are allowed on a particular trail. These signs should generally be used at trailheads, where trails cross major roads, or where trails cross other trails which are open to different uses to discourage unwanted vehicle use.
- b. **Message:**
- | | | |
|--|----|--|
| TRAIL CLOSED TO <u>4WDs, PICKUPS</u> OPEN TO ALL OTHER USES | or | TRAIL CLOSED TO <u>4WDs, PICKUPS, ATVs</u> OPEN TO ALL OTHER USES |
|--|----|--|
- c. **Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective black on white 12"x18" polyplate or similar material with a brown back. Recreation use symbols should be used to denote "jeeps, pickups, UTVs, and ATVs". The signs should be mounted on 4"x4"x6' treated wood posts.
- d. **Placement:** These signs are usually placed between bollards as part of entrance management. At road crossings, the sign is installed on the left side of the trail so that the yield sign (if needed) can be mounted on the other side of the post.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** Similar to TRM51C or TRM40C except black on white.



1a. Allowable Uses

- a. Discussion:** These signs inform the recreationists which modes of travel are allowed on a particular trail and are intended to help maintain the integrity of the trail width and design standards. The intent for single track trails is to exclude ATVs. These signs should generally be used at trailheads, trail junctions, and where trails cross major roads to discourage unwanted vehicle use.
- b. Message:**
- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| SINGLE TRACK | |
| ATV | symbol with red slash |
| NO ATVs | |
- c. Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective brown on white 8"x8" polyplate or similar material with a brown back. Recreation use symbol should be used to denote "ATVs". The signs should be mounted on 4"x4"x6' treated wood posts.
- d. Placement:** These signs are usually placed on junction posts or on separate posts in the immediate proximity to the trail junction. They may also be pop-riveted to the trail reassurance marker.
- e. R/C Sign Number:** TMGT103C



2. Designated Routes Only

- a. Discussion:** These signs inform the recreationists that vehicles are restricted to designated routes only. These signs should generally be used at trailheads, or at trailhead kiosks, or any place where the message needs to be reinforced.
- b. Message:**
- | |
|------------|
| VEHICLE |
| TRAVEL OFF |
| DESIGNATED |
| ROUTES |
| IS |
| PROHIBITED |
- c. Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective black on white 12"x18" polyplate or similar material with a brown back. The signs should be mounted on 4"x4"x6' treated wood posts.

- d. **Placement:** These signs are placed wherever they are needed and appropriate.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** Similar to TRM42 only in black on white.



3. Area Closed

- a. **Discussion:** These signs reinforce the message to the recreationists that vehicles are allowed on designated routes only. These signs should generally be used at an area that has been rehabbed or at a site where off-trail use is starting to occur. It is possible to have a designated trail through an area that is signed as closed.
- b. **Message:**

AREA
CLOSED
PLEASE USE
OTHER
DESIGNATED
ROUTES
- c. **Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective black on white 12"x18" polyplate or similar material with a brown back. The signs should be mounted on 4"x4"x6' treated wood posts. The signs can also be decal placed on a 5 1/2' single-sided brown Carsonite CRM 3066 or similar fiberglass marker. The decal would be black on white reflective similar to Rock Art 30-112 with the agency logo at the top, "AREA CLOSED" in the middle, followed by a 3"x3" black on white reflective decal "To Protect Natural Resources," and with a 3"x3" green on white reflective decal "Please Use Other Designated Routes" on the bottom.
- d. **Placement:** These signs are placed wherever they are needed and appropriate.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** Similar to TRM49C except black on white.



4. Trail Closed

- a. **Discussion:** These signs inform riders that a trail is permanently closed to their use. These are generally used on user-created trails that are not part of the designated system and which are or should be closed and rehabbed.
- b. **Message:**
- TRAIL
CLOSED
PLEASE USE
OTHER
DESIGNATED
ROUTES
- c. **Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective black on white 12"x18" polyplate or similar material with a brown back. The signs should be mounted on 4"x4"x6' treated wood posts. The signs can also be decal placed on a 5 1/2' single-sided brown Carsonite CRM 3066 or similar fiberglass marker. The decal would be black on white reflective similar to Rock Art 30-112 with the agency logo at the top, "TRAIL CLOSED" in the middle, followed by a 3"x3" black on white reflective decal "To Protect Natural Resources," and with a 3"x3" black on white reflective decal "Please Use Other Designated Routes" on the bottom.
- d. **Placement:** These signs are placed wherever they are needed and appropriate.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** Similar to TRM50C except black on white.



5. Play Area Travel Management Sign

- a. **Discussion:** This sign should be used to identify the vehicle uses of the play area.
- b. **Message:**
- AREA
CLOSED TO
JEEPS,CARS,PICKUPS
OPEN TO
ALL OTHER
TRAVEL

- c. **Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective black on white 12"x18" polyplate or similar material with a brown back. Recreation use symbols should be used to denote "jeeps, cars, pickups". The signs should be mounted on 4"x4"x6' treated wood posts.
- d. **Placement:** To be placed at the entrance(s) to the play area under the entry sign.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** Similar to TRM41, but black on white.



Education Signs

1. Please Stay on the Designated Routes

- a. **Discussion:** These are effective education signs that; a) remind the riders that only designated routes are open to their use; and b) to educate the riders to be responsible in their actions. Signs like this put the burden of keeping trails open back on the riders.
- b. **Message:** PLEASE STAY ON THE DESIGNATED ROUTES, THE FUTURE OF THIS TRAIL SYSTEM DEPENDS ON YOU
- c. **Materials:** Reflective white on brown 24"x18" polyplate or similar material with 2" minimum letters.
- d. **Placement:** These signs are generally placed on kiosks or on primary entry points to the trails.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** ED70



2. Please Stay on the Designated Trail

- a. **Discussion:** These are effective education signs that; a) remind the riders that only designated trails are open to their use; and b) to educate the riders to be responsible in their actions. These signs are generally used in places where early levels of off-trail use are occurring.
- b. **Message:** PLEASE STAY ON THE TRAIL, THE FUTURE OF THIS TRAIL DEPENDS ON YOU
- c. **Materials:** Reflective green on white 24"x18" polyplate or similar material with 2" letters mounted on a 4"x4"x6' treated wood post.
- d. **Placement:** These signs are placed in visible locations on the right side of the trail and far enough off the trail to allow about 2' from the trail shoulder to the edge of the sign.

e. **R/C Sign Number:** ED32



3. Stay on Trail

a. **Discussion:** These signs are used in areas where off-trail use is occurring and more subtle signs like #2 above are not being effective. The use of these signs is often accompanied with barriers or fencing to make a strong statement. Although a strong message, the response from responsible riders is overwhelmingly positive.

b. **Message:** STAY ON TRAIL OR STAY HOME

c. **Materials:** Reflective black on yellow 12"x12" diamond shape plastic laminate mounted on a 4"x4"x6' treated wood post. These are a stock item from Scenic Signs in Wausau, Wisconsin.

or

The sign should be fully reflective black on white 12"x18" polyplate or similar material with a brown back. The signs should be mounted on 4"x4"x6' treated wood posts.

d. **R/ Sign Number:** ED121. Scenic Signs E-086, or ED125C except in black on white.



4. Required to Ride

a. **Discussion:** Required to Ride signs are great education tools to inform riders of basic riding requirements.

b. **Message:** REQUIRED TO RIDE

SILENCER (Max 96db)
SPARK ARRESTER
STAY ON THE TRAIL
RIDE RESPONSIBLY

c. **Materials:** These are custom made plastic or vinyl signs that fit a prevention board (15"x44"). Typically, these are bright red on yellow signs that are very visible so no one has the excuse that they didn't "see" the sign. These signs also have the Forest Service logo and the state OHV program logo if appropriate.

d. **Placement:** These signs are generally placed on prevention boards at the road entrance to the riding area, on kiosks, or anyplace else where the message needs to be reinforced.

e. **R/C Sign Number:** ED82C.



4. Trail System Closed

a. **Discussion:** These signs are similar to the Required to Ride signs are great education tools to inform riders that the trail system is closed and the reason for that closure.

b. **Message:**

| | | |
|---------------------|----|----------------------|
| OHV TRAILS | | OHV TRAILS |
| CLOSED | OR | CLOSED |
| EXTREME FIRE DANGER | | TO PROTECT WET SOILS |

c. **Materials:** These are custom made plastic or vinyl signs that fit a prevention board (15"x44"). Typically, these are bright red on yellow signs that are very visible so no one has the excuse that they didn't "see" the sign. These signs also have the Forest Service logo and the state OHV program logo if appropriate.

d. **Placement:** These signs are generally placed on prevention boards at the road entrance to the riding area, on kiosks, or anyplace else where the message needs to be reinforced.

e. **R/C Sign Number:** ED79. Similar to below.



5. Helmet Recommended

a. **Discussion:** Part of being a responsible rider is wearing proper safety gear. This is especially important for children. These signs help educate parents on the recommended use of helmets for all riders under 18.

b. **Message:** A helmet symbol with GET YOUR HEAD IN GEAR underneath.

c. **Materials:** To be determined.

d. **Placement:** These signs should also be mounted at the entrance to the riding area or on kiosks or at trailheads. A suggested placement would be on one of the posts for the Required To Ride sign.

e. **R/C Sign Number:** None

6. Tread Lightly Type Signs

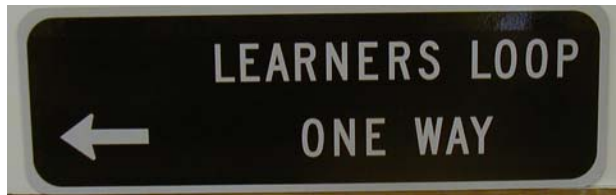
- a. **Discussion:** These are signs that help educate the riders to be responsible in their actions. These signs are generally placed on kiosks at trailheads or play area.
- b. **Message:** USE IT, BUT PLEASE DON'T ABUSE IT; RESPECT THE LAND, THE WATER, THE WILDLIFE, AND THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS; RIDE 4 KEEPS; and others.
- c. **Materials:** Reflective white on brown 24"x18" polyplate or similar material with 2" letters mounted on a 4"x4"x6' treated wood post. Actual size to be determined by content of message.
- d. **R/C Sign Number:** ED31



Guide Signs

1. General Guide Signs

- a. **Discussion:** Guide signs give the users basic direction to destination points.
- b. **Messages:** Viewpoint, Learner's Loop, Big Sink, others to be determined.
- c. **Materials:** Signs should be rectangular reflective white on brown polyplate or similar material with a white border, brown back, and 2" minimum letters (3" preferred). Sign size should vary by message and they should be mounted on 4"x4"x6' treated wood posts.
- d. **Placement:** See the Sign List (to be developed) for suggested installations.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** TG65, TG67, TG68



2. Point of Interest Signs

- a. **Discussion:** A Point of Interest Federal Recreation Symbol can often be used in place of a guide sign to direct riders to a site. Another sign may be required at the site to describe the point of interest, ie an interpretive sign.
- b. **Messages:** Point of Interest Federal Recreation Symbol.
- c. **Materials:** Signs should be rectangular reflective white on brown 12"x12" polyplate or similar material with a white border, and brown back. Signs should be mounted on 4"x4"x6' treated wood posts or fiberglass markers.
- d. **Placement:** See the Sign List (to be developed) for suggested installations.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** TG118



Specialty Signs

1. Play Area Boundary Signs

- a. **Discussion:** These signs should be used to delineate the boundary of the Cleveland Play Area.
- b. **Message:** OHV PLAY AREA BOUNDARY, This Sign Faces Open Area
- c. **Materials:** 2 3/8" x 17" reflective brown on white decal placed on 2 1/2" x 5' brown CBM 2060 Carsonite or similar markers.
- d. **Placement:** To be placed intervisibly around the perimeter of the play area (generally, the impacted area).
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** AB15



2. Play Area Entry Sign

- a. **Discussion:** This sign should be used to identify the entry of the play area.
- b. **Message:**
Groundhog Quarry
OHV PLAY AREA
Please Stay Within
The Marked Boundary
- c. **Materials:** Reflective white on brown polyplate or similar material with brown back and 2" letters.
- d. **Placement:** To be placed at the entrance(s) to the play area.
- e. **R/C Sign Number:** None



3. Event Guide Signs

a. **Discussion:** These are portable signs that are use to direct recreationists to the site where an event is being held.

b. **Message:** EVENT
 STAGING AREA with appropriate arrow.
 

c. **Materials:** The sign should be fully reflective black on orange polyplate or similar material with a border and a brown back. Letter size is 5". Sign size to be determined. Sign should be pre-drilled with oversize holes to allow for temporary hanging over nails, etc.

d. **Placement:** To be placed as necessary to direct the public to the site.

e. **R/C Sign Number:** RG24



4. Trail System Logo Identifier

a. **Discussion:** These signs/decals are used as a trail system identifier.

b. **Message:** None

c. **Materials:** The decals are 3"x3" black or brown on white. The signs are 3"x3" black or brown on white plastic substrate (thickness to be determined) with two pre-drilled holes for mounting. Larger signs are made of polyplate with black or brown on white for the front and brown backs in approximate 8"x12" size.

d. **Placement:** The signs/decals are intended to be mounted near the base of fiberglass reassurance markers or 4"x4" posts. They can also be used on kiosks or any other appropriate location. The logo could also appear on maps and other hand-out information.

e. **R/C Sign Number:** None.



5. Agency Logo Identifier

- a. Discussion:** These signs/decals are used as an identifier of the managing agency.
- b. Message:** None
- c. Materials:** The decals are 3"x3" in full color. The signs are 3"x3" full color on white plastic substrate (thickness to be determined) with two pre-drilled holes for mounting. Larger signs are made of polyplate in full color with brown backs in approximate 8"x12" size.
- d. Placement:** The signs/decals are intended to be mounted near the base of fiberglass reassurance markers or 4"x4" posts. They can also be used on kiosks or any other appropriate location. The logo could also appear on maps and other hand-out information.
- e. R/C Sign Number:** None.



6. Trail System Steward Identifier

- a. Discussion:** These signs/decals are used to identify the steward of a trail or trail system.
- b. Message:** None
- c. Materials:** The decals are 3"x3" in full color. The signs are 3"x3" full color on white plastic substrate (thickness to be determined) with two pre-drilled holes for mounting. Larger, full color signs could be made on polyplate with a brown back and the size to be determined.

- d. Placement:** The signs/decals are intended to be mounted near the base of fiberglass reassurance markers or 4"x4" posts. They can also be used on kiosks or any other appropriate location. The logo could also appear on maps and other hand-out information.
- e. R/C Sign Number:** None.



TYPICAL INSTALLATIONS



Typical portal signs.







Typical road crossing with bollards, travel management, reassurance, and yield signs.







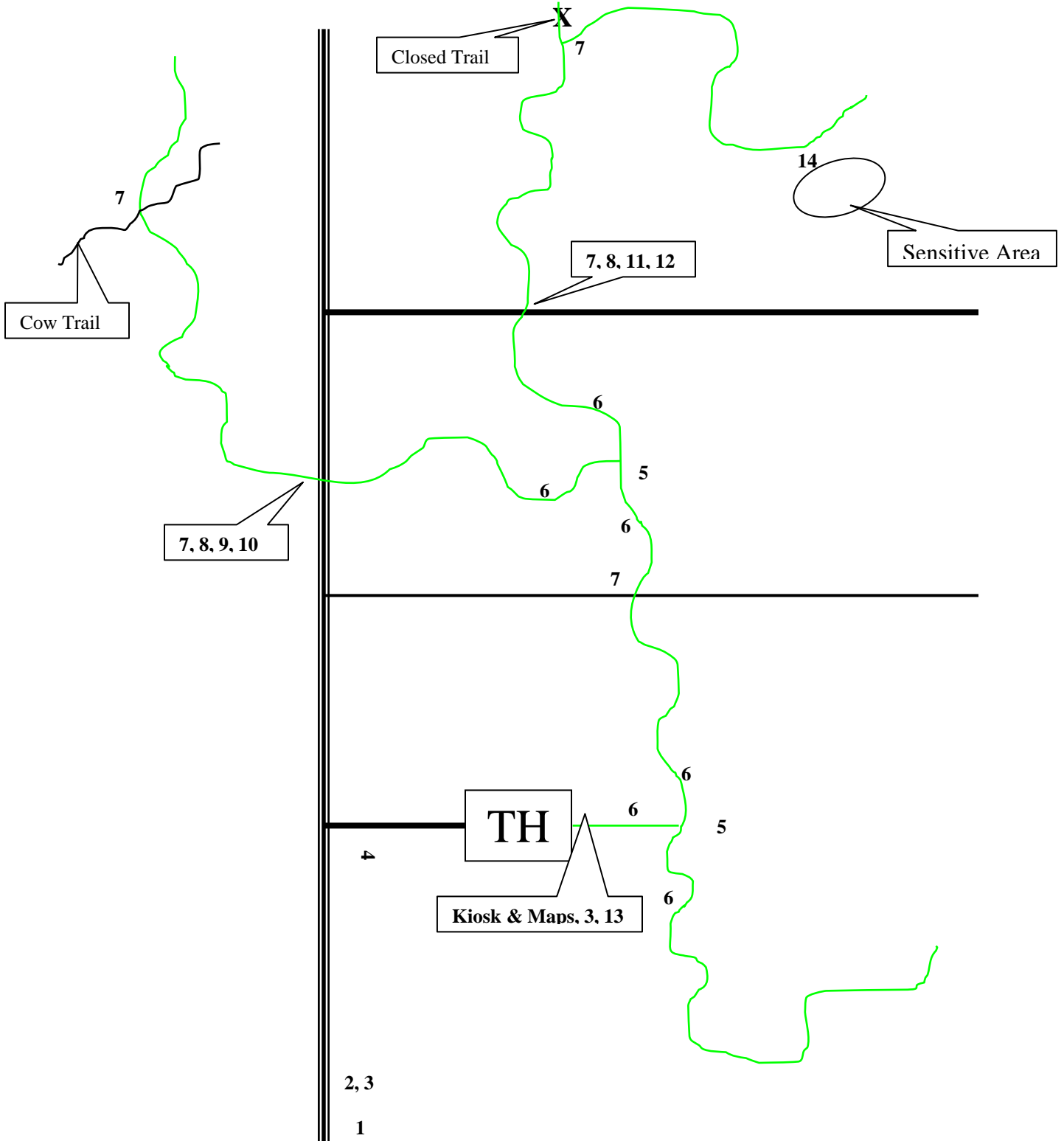
A typical trailhead kiosk.






Typical Required to Ride


Typical Sign Placement




Legend

 Paved arterial or highway

 Main Gravel Road

 Secondary Road

1. Portal Entry Sign
2. Portal Travel Management Sign
3. Required to Ride Sign
4. Specific Recreation Site Sign
5. Trail Junction Marker
6. Trail Reassurance Marker with Intersection Ahead
7. Trail Reassurance Marker
8. Travel Management Sign (2- one on each side of the road)
9. Stop Ahead Sign (2)
10. Stop Sign (2)
11. Yield Ahead Sign (2)
12. Yield Sign (2)
13. Travel Management Sign- Vehicle Travel off Designated Routes is Prohibited
14. Travel Management Sign- Area Closed, OHVs Are Permitted on Designated Routes/Areas Only

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
|  | | <h2 style="text-align: center;">RecConnect, LLC</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Warning and Regulatory Sign Warrant</h3> | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Date: | Weather: | | Trail Condition: | | | | |
| Trail #: | Mile Post: | Lat. | | Long. | | | |
| General Vicinity: | | Direction of Travel: | | | | | |
| Photo # | | | | | | | |
| Questionable Concern: | Steep Grade | Hwy Xing | | Trailhead | | Rocks | |
| | Curve | RR Xing | | Trail Jct. | | Cattleguard | |
| | Stream Xing | 2-Way Traffic | | Cliff | | Other | |
| Condition of Concern: | A. Judge | | B. Stop | | C. Decel | | |
| Traffic Volume: | High | | Med | | Low | | |
| Traffic Speed: | 25+ | | 15-25 | | 0-15 | | |
| Sight Distance: | Back | | Ahead | | Left | | Right |
| Is a Sign Necessary? | Back | Y/N | | Ahead | Y/N | | |
| Is It Already Signed? | Back | Y/N | | Ahead | Y/N | | |
| Is the Sign Adequate? | Back | Y/N | | Ahead | Y/N | | |
| Meet Sign Standards? | Back | Y/N | | Ahead | Y/N | | |
| Can the Conditon Be Mitigated Through Trail Relocation? | | | | | Yes | | No |
| Type of Sign Needed: | Warn | | Reg | | Other | | |
| Sign Specs: | Size | | Color | | Letter Size | | |
| Sign Support: | Post | | Tree | | Other | | |
| Describe Actions to be Taken and Justification: | | | | | | | |
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