

# Friends of Texas Creek OHV Area

**A Network Initiative  
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# Texas Creek OHV Area, a Management Challenge Requiring a Creative Solution

- The Texas Creek OHV area is an OHV destination for the Front Range of Colorado that up to this point has had very little active management by the BLM. It's far enough away from the major population centers so there is no 'local' club to step up and take the reigns on it.
- The environmental community is starting to take notice of the issues at Texas Creek.
- We need a Management Network!

[Here's part of our challenge.](#)

# Friends of Texas Creek OHV Area

## Managing by Network

### Network Goal / Vision

The vision is to develop a network of recreational users, clubs, and volunteers that with agency support take care of and manage the Texas Creek OHV area.

### Network Objectives

- Close all of the non-designated routes including the expanding play area adjacent to the trailhead by spring 2011.
- Improve and expand the trailhead to better accommodate current use levels by 2012.
- Ensure the signing is accurate, in good shape and matches the map on an ongoing basis (continuous maintenance).
- Increase patrols/visitor contracts by having either agency staff or volunteers at the site every weekend during the use season by 2011.
- Increase volunteer involvement by having at least one large volunteer project at Texas Creek once a month in 2011 and onward.
- Improve/expand on trail system by providing more trails of a greater variety in difficulty (ongoing if the site is adequately maintained).
- Establish a person to champion this network and coordinate projects, patrols, and volunteers and bring in additional funding by 2013.

# Formal and Informal Network Partnerships

## ➤ Partners with Volunteers Agreements

- High Rocky Riders
- Cliffe Riders
- Royal Gorge OHV Club

## ➤ Partners With Assistance Agreements

- Rampart Range Motorcycle Management Committee
- GARNA
- Youthcorps

## ➤ Partners Under Contract

## ➤ Partners With MOU

## ➤ Intra/Inter Agency Partners

- USFS, San Carlos Ranger District
- USFS, Salida Ranger District

## ➤ Informal Partnerships

- Play Dirty OHV Tours

## ➤ Potential Partners

- Colorado Motorcycle Trail Riders Association (CMTRA)

# Stage of Network Development

What's the status of your network development:?

- ✓ Visioning
- ✓ Conceptual
- ✓ Research and Development
- ✓ Implementation Planning
- ✓ **Active**
- ✓ **Evaluating**

What are you doing at this stage to manage the network and move to the next stage?

Right now we are working on trying to bring more partners into the fold and evaluating the current network and identifying deficiencies. On the ground conditions are a pretty big indicator that something isn't working and more needs to be done. We are also exploring grant opportunities to expand on the agencies role while the partnership is better developed. In other words something needs to be done now! It is the hope that an increased role by the agency will be able to better develop the network.

# Network Geography

## Communities of Place, Identify and Interest

Where does your network operate? Front Range of Colorado, Arkansas River Valley

Who benefits from the development of your network?

- Recreational Users
- Resources in area/environmental community/river users
- Play Dirty ATV Tours
- Tax Payers
- Community that relies on water quality of the use area

# Benefits of the Network

## Present

### 1. List the current benefits of your network initiative

Instead of time spent listening to concerns of representatives of the area's environmental organizations, I am working with them and user groups to address the concerns

Resources in the area will be protected

Users will have a good place to ride their ATVs and Motorcycles

## Future

### 1. List the future benefits of your network initiative

Users could have more trails in the area

Our office can spend time focusing on other areas (improved visitor services)

Improvement in water quality in Arkansas River (protection of resources)

Users will take care of area ensuring it stays open for their use

# Evaluating Network Potential and Performance

	Evaluation Criteria	Comments
1	Advance strategic priorities of the agency	Yes, travel management is a high priority for the office and this network would advance this. It would also free up staff time to work on other agency priorities.
2	Leverages funding	Yes, grants and volunteer hours would leverage existing BLM base dollars.
3	Demonstrates big-picture thinking	This would help us build our long-term recreation program and looks down the road several years.
4	Demonstrates entrepreneurship	I see this as building a good management program that runs itself in a few years allowing us to shift focus to other issues.
5	Management of formal agreements and contracts	Would involve use of volunteer agreements, assistance agreements and eventually an MOU
6	Demonstrates effective external and internal communication	Would organize clubs and get them talking, currently there is very little communication between them. Would improve dialogue between users and BLM.
7	Demonstrates accountability	One area of evaluation. Future agreements would spell out roles and expectations.
8	Potential as a network management model	Not really, based on other examples.



# Lessons Learned About Network Management

- List two to three lessons learned about network management that you wish to share with colleagues within your agency

Partners really appreciate being treated truly as a partner and being trusted. Agency people don't always have to micro-manage, especially working with good partners.

It really takes a champion of a cause to build an effective network, finding that person can be hard and if you really see value in it, that person might be you.

- List one to two lessons learned about network management that changed the way you interact with partners

If I am new to an area I will always do a listening tour to meet partners and organizations. This was an idea presented in network management that I did in my new position and this was very effective in building relationships and people really appreciated it.