



UPDATE: Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement July 27, 2009

Greetings!

Progress to Date

Last summer we initiated public scoping for an Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Rosita and Blue Creek ORV areas. We hosted three public meetings and sought comments from the public. The public meetings were widely attended and provided valuable input that we have used to begin drafting management alternatives.

Additionally, during the past year we have continued to gather data necessary for an analysis of the impacts of different management alternatives. We have conducted seasonal surveys for the endangered Arkansas River shiner, collected information on sound impacts from ORVs in the ORV areas, and collected and analyzed literature about park resources and ORVs.

Next Steps

We are currently considering a wide range of actions in our alternatives. Some of those actions include, but are not limited to, designating trails for different ORV rider experience levels; designating trails for different types of motorized vehicles (ATVs vs. trucks, etc.); facilities improvement such as picnic tables and bathrooms; designating camping areas and sites within the ORV areas; equipment requirements such as flags; implementing a permit system; designating speed limits in some areas for safety; removing Rosita from National Park Service ownership; and other management alternatives. We are still working on developing the alternatives and will be releasing them for comment in early 2010. At that time we will hold public meetings and present all the different management alternatives, including maps showing how each alternative would affect trails at both Rosita and Blue Creek.

Thank you for your input in the planning process to date. Materials from the 2008 public scoping meetings are available on the following website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lamr> or if you do not have internet access you may request a copy of the public comment analysis report from Arlene Wimer at 806-857-3151. You will receive a brochure in advance of the early 2010 public meetings providing information about the alternatives, how to comment, and meeting dates and locations.



Rosita ORV Area

NPS photo