

TO: MERA Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Bart Barlow 10/17/09 Draft 01

RE: Proposed Section 3.0 of MERA Management Plan Trailheads, Access Points

3.0 TRAILHEADS AND ACCESS POINTS (SEE FIGURE ? FOR LOCATIONS)

All access to MERA is strictly controlled and will be enforced by the Union County Sheriff. The following points of entry are allowed for the MERA (see Figure ? for locations):

- Two Primary Trailheads: Fox Hill Trailhead and Owsley Canyon Trailhead.
- Two Secondary Trailheads: Lower Igo Lane Trailhead and Upper Igo Lane Trailhead.
- Three Primitive Access Points: Fox Hill Road Access Point, Owsley Canyon Road Access Point, Mt Emily Road Access Point.

The locations of these trailheads and access points and the restrictions placed on each of these are based on the requirement to implement the Management Objectives listed in Section ? Each of these are discussed in this Section.

3.1 Primary Trailheads

Primary Trailheads are those that are developed and maintained by Union County. There are two Primary Trailheads, which are shown in Figure ? and described below.

3.1.1 Fox Hill Road Primary Trailhead

The Fox Hill Primary Trailhead is located on the east side of Fox Hill Road and about one mile from the Union County Fairgrounds. This trailhead is the primary entry point for Class I, Class II and Class III OHV's and provides the key access route for motorized trail use onto the adjacent Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

The Fox Hill Primary Trailhead includes⁽¹⁾ a rock-surfaced parking lot, at least two vault-type toilets, and parking spaces for up to 20 vehicles and trailers. Refuse pickup will be provided. An overflow parking area will also be located on the West side of Fox Hill Road—just across from the main parking area. The overflow parking area is also part of the ATV Safety Training Area.

Non-motorized users may access the Area from this trailhead, but restrictions on parking and unloading apply (see below).

Restrictions: no parking allowed of vehicles and trailers from non-motorized trail users.

Footnotes ⁽¹⁾ Improvements discussed here may not yet be available as of the date of this plan, but are pending.

3.1.2 Owsley Canyon Primary Trailhead

The Owsley Canyon Primary Trailhead is located about 1.5 miles North from Blackhawk Trail. This trailhead is the primary entry point for non-motorized trail access. All types of non-motorized users may access the MERA from this trailhead.

The Owsley Canyon Primary Trailhead includes⁽¹⁾ a rock-surfaced parking area for parking of 6 vehicles and attached trailers, and 10 vehicles without attached trailers, and one vault-type toilet. Refuse pickup is not provided by Union County.

Restrictions: no motorized use and no parking allowed of vehicles, and or vehicles and trailers from motorized trail users.

3.2 Secondary Trailheads

Secondary Trailheads are trailheads that have only minimal parking and improvements, and must be maintained at no cost to Union County. Trailhead users must maintain these trailheads. Failure to maintain those trailheads as prescribed by the AC may result in closure of those entry points.

3.2.1 Lower Igo Lane Secondary Trailhead

Lower Igo Lane Secondary Trailhead is a non-motorized only trailhead, which is located about ½ mile west from Mt Glen Rd. This trailhead has parking for up to two trucks with horse trailers and 4 vehicles without trailers. This Trailhead is ***on private land and permission to use it may be revoked*** at any time by the landowner. There are no public toilets or trash receptacles at this trailhead. Pack it in Pack it out !

Restrictions: no use allowed and no parking allowed of vehicles and or vehicles and trailers from motorized trail users. The Lower Igo Lane Secondary Trailhead is closed to snowmobiles.

3.2.2 Upper Igo Lane Trailhead

Upper Igo Lane Trailhead is a motorized and non-motorized entry point, which is located about ¾ mile west from Mt Glen Road. There is ***no parking allowed at this trailhead for vehicles with trailers***—there are blind corners along the Igo Lane access road to this trailhead and there is no area available for vehicles with trailers to turnaround. Parking is available for up to 5 vehicles without trailers.

From the Upper Igo Lane gate, seasonal access is allowed for motorized users, Class I and III OHV's, to the MERA motorized trail system. Only the gravel surfaced road beyond the gate is open to motorized use and only to the intersection with Igo Up/Igo Down OHV Trail (see Figure ?).

There are no public toilets or trash receptacles at this trailhead. Pack it in Pack it out !

Restrictions: no parking allowed of any vehicles and trailers from motorized trail users or non-motorized trail users; seasonal use only on Igo Lane for Class I and III OHV's. **If the gate at Upper Igo Lane Trailhead or entry point is not posted as open to OHV's—it is closed.** The Upper Igo Lane Trailhead is closed to snowmobiles.

3.3 Primitive Access Points

Primitive Access Points have only minimal parking and no improvements, and must be maintained at no cost to Union County. Primitive Access Point users must maintain these entry points. Failure to maintain those Primitive Access Points as prescribed by the AC may result in closure of those entry points.

3.3.1 Owsley Canyon Primitive Access Point

The Owsley Canyon Primitive Access Point is located about ½ miles north from the Owsley Canyon Trailhead on Owsley Canyon Road, and about 2 miles north of Blackhawk Trail. At this gated location, year round access is allowed for non-motorized users, and seasonal access is allowed for motorized users, Class I and III OHV's. Only the gravel surfaced road beyond the gate is open to motorized use and only to the intersection with Igo Up/Igo Down OHV Trail (see Figure ?).

Restrictions: no parking allowed of any vehicles, and or vehicles and trailers from any user groups; seasonal use on Owsley Canyon Road, located north of the gate only, for Class I and III OHV's. **If the gate at Owsley Canyon Primitive Access Point is not posted as open to OHV's—it is closed.** The Owsley Canyon Primitive Access Point is closed to snowmobiles.

3.3.2 Fox Hill Primitive Access Point

The Fox Hill Primitive Access Point is located about 3 miles north and east from the Fox Hill Primary Trailhead on Forest Service Road ???. At this gated location seasonal access is allowed for motorized users, Class I, II and III OHV's, to the MERA motorized trail system. Non-motorized use is allowed but discouraged at the access point.

Restrictions: no parking allowed of any vehicles, and or vehicles and trailers from any user groups; **if the gate at Fox Hill Primitive Access Point is not posted as open to OHV's and snowmobiles—it is closed.**

3.3.3 Mt. Emily Road Primitive Access Point

The Mt Emily Road Primitive Access Point is located about ¾ mile from the intersection of Owsley Canyon Road and Mt Emily Road and about 3 miles north of Blackhawk Trail. At this gated location, year round access is allowed for non-motorized users and motorized users, Class I, II and III OHV's. Only the County Road, Mt Emily Road, beyond the gate is open to motorized use (see Figure ?).

Restrictions: no parking allowed of any vehicles with trailers from any user group. **If the gated entry point at the Mt Emily Primitive Access Point is not posted as open to OHV's and snowmobiles—it is closed.**

