

Hi. I'm Larry Ridenhour. I'm the recreation planner in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. I've been on the RMIS team now for a little over 10 years, and the area that I work in has the highest concentration of nesting birds of prey in all of North America and one of the top five places in the world. I spend most of my time out visiting with people who are there to see the birds, which gives me a lot of time to do a lot of bird watching myself, which is one of my favorite pastimes. I have worked for BLM for about 16 years and look forward to someday when I can retire.

Hi. My name's Larry Ridenhour, and I'm a recreation planner in Boise, Idaho. In this section you'll learn about rivers, roads, and trails collectively known as corridors. At the end of this session, you will be able to explain the concept of a RMIS corridor, create a new corridor and its segments, create a formula for a corridor segment, apply an existing formula to a segment, and be able to add visitor use numbers to a corridor segment.

First, let's look at the concept behind the RMIS corridor. As a recreation planner, we often manage the linear types of recreation corridors such as rivers, roads like back-country byways, and trails both motorized and non-motorized. These corridors have several things in common. They may span considerable distances, they may connect several different recreation sites, often there is a known amount of use for the corridor, and often the same users visit more than one site along the corridor.

So how does RMIS handle corridors? The important thing to remember is that if visitor use numbers are not entered in a corridor, either river, road, or trail, then you will not be able to run a report to display these numbers for that particular corridor. Another way to think of it is that visitor use added at the site only shows up at the site, and in many cases that's exactly what we want to do. However, visitor use added in a corridor shows up in the corridor and at the site included in the corridor formula.

Let's start by looking at an example of a trail. We have a visitor and we have a trail, and at the end of the trail we have a trail head site, and we may have one or more sites along that trail. Now as the visitor traverses this trail, he may stop at each of these sites. If we are using a counting method of counting users at each site, he gets counted at each of these stops, and in essence we have counted one visitor as four visits. The corridor concept allows you to take this entire corridor and treat it as one unit and count one visitor as one visit. The corridor formula takes a known amount of use along a corridor and allocates that use to one or more sites along the corridor. This allows you to show the use occurring along the corridor and at each site without double, triple, or quadruple counting one visitor. This general concept can be applied to rivers, roads, and trails in the RMIS program. The concept can also be applied to special designation areas like wildernesses or WSAs but expanded from a linear corridor to a polygon.

Let's look at how we access corridor information. From the office page in the left navigation bar are buttons for rivers, roads, and trails. If you click on the rivers button, you get a screen showing the rivers that you have entered in the RMIS program along with an assortment of related information including the name, ID number, any associated management plans, any notes you may have added, and a list of any segments for the river. If you have not entered information for a type of corridor, for example roads, you get a screen like this that says no roads exist for this office. It doesn't mean you don't have roads, but you haven't entered them into the RMIS program the trail page will show you basic information for any trails that you have listed in RMIS along with any segments that you have created for that trail. You also notice at the end of each page the last button is a segment button, whether it's a trail segment, road segment, or river segment.

So what exactly are corridor segments? If you think of the RMA, the sites located in the RMA are where the visitor use is accounted for. For corridors, visitor use is accounted for in the corridor segments. Each river, road, or trail that you identify must have at least one segment. The segment can include the entire corridor, or you can create several additional segments. Let's look at a section of the Snake River as an example of how you might segment a river. The Birds of Prey area includes 82 miles of the Snake River. If this were a relatively remote stretch of river with limited access, we might only have one segment. However, this is not the case. We have broken up the Snake River into five different segments based on several things. The first segment is a free-flowing stretch running from the east boundary down to the Highway 51 Bridge. The next segment includes the area of the Snake River backed up behind C.J. Strike Reservoir. The third segment crosses primarily private land with very limited BLM access. The fourth segment goes into the Snake River Canyon and is a popular overnight trip. The fifth segment is a popular day-use stretch.

So why might you want to have different segments? First you could have a change in the type of use. You may have a stretch of river that changes from a mellow, flat-water section into a white-water run. You may have a change in physical characteristics. You could have a byway that changes from a maintained gravel road into more of a four-wheel-drive, high-clearance road. You may have a significant change in the type of ownership where you want to segment that use. But remember, you may only need one segment for your corridor.

Now that we know a little about the concept of a corridor, I will show you how to create a new corridor and a new corridor segment. We'll create a new trail called Hulls Gulch Trail. It's an 11-mile stretch of trail where we have three sites located along it. There's the 8th Street Trailhead, Lower Hulls Gulch Trailhead, and the Upper Interpretive Trailhead. Now between the 8th Street and Lower Hulls Gulch. This section has been designated as multiuse, non-motorized. It is 8 miles and is primarily mountain bikers and hikers. The upper section is designated as pedestrian only. Now this is a good example of where we have a trail where we

might want to break it into two segments. So keep this illustration in mind as we go through the RMIS program and create our new trail and trail segments.

Now we're in the RMIS training database. We know that because of the lavender background. We're gonna create our new trail and trail segments for Hulls Gulch, but before we do that, we're gonna go into the rivers and roads sections to show you the type of information that you will be putting into those. We'll start with rivers, and if you have rivers entered into the RMIS program you'll see a list of those. For this example we have the Payette River and the North Fork Payette. If we want to see information about it we have the name, the ID numbers, any management plans associated with it, any notes, and at the bottom we see a list of the river segments.

If we click the river segments button, we get additional information about each segment, so for the south fork we see the segment number, any in-stream study and dates associated with that, wild and scenic river status. We also see the number of miles of river. We see the formula at the bottom and any sites referenced by that corridor formula. We go back to our office page. We're gonna look at roads. Under roads we have a drop-down showing any roads you have listed. You can see information about specific roads, route numbers, management plans, the length in miles, any notes you have on this road. At the bottom there is information on any designation. In this example, it is a state scenic byway that's 120 miles long. You also see road segments associated with this road. In the road segment portion, you will see even more information.

You'll see the name of the road segment, segment number, any designation dates, classification of the road by miles, and ownership by miles if that's been entered. You'll see the formula and any sites referenced by this trail segment formula. Let's get to our example of creating a new trail. We'll go to the left navigation bar and click on trails. This will open up the trail information page. We're gonna click on the new button, and now we need to enter our information. We'll start with the name. Hulls Gulch Trail. We're gonna leave the route number at 1. Under trail category we have three options, land, underground if you have a caving trail, or any water trails. If this trail extended beyond your office boundary you could put a check mark here to identify it. We're gonna leave the notes empty right now, and under management plan we're gonna add the Cascade RMP. This is all the information we need right now, so we're gonna click save, and we have created our new trail. You'll notice at the bottom of your trail segments the program automatically creates one segment for the entire length of the trail, and we will be editing that for our trail segments.

We're gonna create our two trail segments now. In order to edit we're gonna click the highlighted name. We'll change this to the lower Hulls Gulch Trail. Trail segment number we'll leave the same. If it were part of the rails to trail system we'd put a check mark here. Under designation, this section is not designated so we're gonna leave it as is. Under BLM managed miles we'll put in the length, 8

miles, and it is 8 miles of developed trail. We're gonna add those. And at the very bottom, if there is an applicable law associated with this segment we could identify it here. We're not gonna add anything to there. We're all set for this segment, so click save. Now we need to add one more trail segment so we will click new. Here we have our new trail segment name. We're gonna call this the Upper Hulls gulch Trail.

Our trail segment we're gonna add number 2, and again, this is not part of the rails to trail, but this section is designated as a national recreation trail. The BLM miles are 3, and we have 3 miles of developed trail. Under the available laws for this, we're gonna go down and find the National Trail Systems Act. We're gonna add that and scroll back up, and we're gonna click save. Now we have our two trail segments, Upper Hulls gulch Trail and Lower Hulls Gulch Trail. You also notice that the program automatically creates a default formula, and we see that there are no sites referenced by this trail segment because we have not created the formula.

Now before we can add any visitor use to our new trail and trail segments, we have to create a formula for these segments, and we'll do that in the next section.

In this section, I'll show you how to create a corridor formula, how to apply an existing formula to a corridor segment. We're gonna be using our Hulls Gulch Trail example that we just created in the last section. Remember we have a lower section that is primarily mountain bikers and hikers and the upper section that is hikers only. Now the first thing we need to do is divide out between the different sites. First, the 8th Street Trailhead from observation we know gets about 70% of the use. The Lower Hulls Gulch Trailhead gets about 30% of the use. If we add in our activities at 8th Street, hikers and runners account for 40% of participation, and they use that trailhead for about 10 minutes or 0.2 hours. Mountain bikers make up the remaining 60%, and they are using the trailhead for about 15 minutes or 0.25 hours.

The Lower Hulls Gulch Trailhead, hikers and runners account for 20% of the visitation, and the mountain bikers account for the remaining 80%. The time spent at the trailhead is about the same as 8th Street. Now to account for time spent actually on the trail, we're gonna allocate that to our Dispersed Boise front site. We're gonna have 100% allocated to that. The activities, hikers and runners, account for 30% of that total use, and mountain bikers 70%. The hikers on average spend about two hours on that section of trail. Some may be on the trail for 4 hours and some may be on for 15 or 20 minutes, but on average they are there for 2 hours. Mountain bikers on average spend about an hour and 15 minutes on the trail. Now the upper segment is a little bit simpler. We have the Lower Hulls Gulch Trailhead, and we're gonna allocate 100% of the visitation to that trailhead. The Upper Interpretive Trailhead we're only gonna allocate 70% of the use because some users who start at the lower trailhead hike up only a portion of the way and turn around and never use that Upper Interpretive Trailhead. Then

to account for the use on the trail itself, we will allocate 100% of the use to our Dispersed Boise Front. Add in the activities, hiking/running is the only activity on this trail, so we get 100% participation for each of these sites. Average time spent at the trailhead is about 10 minutes, and the time spent on the trail itself is about an hour and a half.

So now that we've written out our formula, let's go to the RMIS program and create it. Now we're back in the RMIS training database, and we're gonna create a formula for the Lower Halls Gulch Trail segment, and we're going to apply an existing formula for the upper trail segment. Now we need to get to our trail segment, so first we need to get to the trail, so we click the trails button, and the Halls Gulch Trail, since we were there last, comes up automatically. We can come down to our trail segment list, highlight Lower Halls Gulch, click the trail segments button, and we have the Lower Halls Gulch Trail.

Now we can click the default formula named here to open our trail segment formula. At this point, we just see that this is the default formula created by the program and we need to edit it. We do that by clicking the default formula name, and the first thing we want to do is change that name, because if we don't we're gonna end up with a whole list of formulas called default. We're gonna call this Lower Halls Gulch Formula. Now, from the information we have already laid out, we know that the first site we're gonna attach to this formula is 8th Street parking area. We want to allocate 70% of the use to that site under activities. Our first one will be hiking, and if we just type H it will take us to the Hs so we can get to it quicker, so we have hiking, walking, running, the percent is 40%, and the average hours is 0.2, and we need to insert another activity so we click the insert button, and this is going to be mountain biking, so we click a B and find bicycling mountain, percentage is 60%, and average hours is 0.25. At this point, we want to insert a new site. We click the insert site button, and we scroll down and we'll see our next site and we want to add the Lower Halls Gulch Trailhead. Highlight it. It gets 30% of the use. Our activities, hiking 20% participation, average of 0.2, and scroll over and we're gonna insert new activities. We scroll down to find the portion we're working on. Now we need to add mountain biking. That is the remaining 80% participants, 0.25 hours.

Last we need to add one more site, our Dispersed Boise Front. We need to scroll down to find the Dispersed Boise Front site. Now this is always a tricky one. We're gonna add 100% participation because that's accounting for the use actually on the trail itself. The activity again is hiking, 30% participation. The average hours is two hours. We just scroll over and click insert, add our mountain bikers, and we're gonna have to scroll down, 70% participation, and average hours is 1.25, and we'll take a scroll over here and take a quick glance at our formula, and everything looks good. We're gonna scroll over to the left navigation bar and click save. We'll take one last look at our formula, and if we go back to our trail segment we'll now see under visitor use formula our Lower Halls Gulch Trail formula, and we'll also see the three sites that are referenced by this formula.

We now need to apply an existing formula for our Upper Hulls Gulch Trail. Now to do this, we're gonna use a formula that has already been created and saved in our master formula list. Now if we go to our home page and we scroll down to formulas, this will bring up our list of master formulas. By default, the site formulas come up. We can use your drop-down and find the trail segment formulas, and here we have a Hulls Gulch Trail formula already created. This is a formula that I created earlier for our training purposes. So we're gonna hit cancel, which will take us back to our master list. What we need to do is get to our trail segment, so we'll go to trails, and then we'll go to trail segments. We're gonna switch to the Upper Hulls Gulch Trail, and we will see that we have the default formula, and this is what we need to edit.

Now you start basically the same way as creating a new formula. You click the highlighted name, but instead of just starting from here and creating a formula, we have a button on the left that says choose, and if we click that, it will pull up the list of formulas that are in your master trails database, and we can see that we have the upper Hulls Gulch Trail from our formula list, and on the right we have to scroll down and find our Upper Hulls Gulch Trail. We have these, and we want to click save, and we're gonna get this warning that says you're applying a new formula from your master list and it's gonna delete the current formula associated with this site, and that's exactly what we want to do because currently we just have a default formula. We're gonna click OK, and now we see that the formula that was in our master list is now associated with our trail segment. We go back to our trail segment list. We have Upper Hulls Gulch Trail, and the formula is the Upper Hulls Gulch formula, and it references three sites that we had mentioned earlier, Hulls Gulch Interpretive Trailhead, the Lower Hulls Gulch Trailhead, and the Dispersed Boise Front. Now that we have formulas for each of our segments, we can now add visitor use to our trail.

In this section I will show you how to add visitor use to a corridor segment. Now that we have created our Hulls Gulch Trail with its two segments and we have created or applied formulas to those segments, we can now go into the RMIS program and add our visitor use estimates. That use will now show up in the corridor and will show up at the specific sites listed in the corridor formula. Again we're in the RMIS training database, and we're now going to add visitor use to the new trail segments that we have created. Now if you scroll down toward the bottom of almost every page there is a visitor use button. This is where you add visitor use. If we click visitor use, we're taken to our add visits. Now by default, add visitation to site comes up. We're gonna add visitation to trail segments. We're gonna only add it to the Upper and Lower Hulls Gulch Trail, so one thing we can do is select Hulls Gulch Trail, and it'll only show those segments.

Now we're gonna change the default start and end dates. We're gonna say that we collected use for the month of May, so we're gonna put in 05/01/2009 for the start date, and the end date is 05/31/2009. Now we're gonna hold down the shift

and select both segments, and then on the left we're gonna click add visits. Now since we held down the shift, it selected both of those. Now we're gonna have to scroll to the right and we're gonna see the default dates that we put in are already in here, and for Lower Hulls Gulch it was a pretty busy month and we had 500 visits, but the upper trail was pretty slow and only had 100 visits. We scroll back, we want to save this, and we're taken back to our add visits page. At this point, a lot of people wonder whether or not those use numbers have been added.

One way we can check is to go look at the sites. So we click our home button, go down to trails, click trail segments, and if we look for the Lower Hulls Gulch Trail, about two thirds of the way down we have visits for FY-09, and we can see our 500 visits. If we go up to the Upper Hulls Gulch Trail, we see our 100 visits. Now the question is are we getting those use numbers added to our sites. Well, in order to do that we go to our home page. We have to go to the sites themselves so we have to start in the correct RMA, which would be the Boise Front. We look at the 8th Street Parking Area, which is part of our Lower Hulls Gulch Trail. If we click sites and we scroll down we have 350 visits, but none of those are from sites, but if you look at the bottom, those 350 visits come from the trail segments.

Now you might be asking why is there only 350 visits instead of the 500 that we added to the trail. Well, if you remember back to our formula, the 8th Street Trailhead only gets 70% of the total use on that trail segment. If we look at the Lower Hulls Gulch Trailhead, so we're gonna come up to our list, go to the Lower Hulls Gulch Trailhead, we're gonna see that we have 250 trail segment visits. now this might be a little bit confusing because the Lower Hulls Gulch Trailhead gets use from both the upper and lower sections of the trail, so 30% of the 500 visits from the lower trail gets added in, and then 100% of the use from the upper trail gets added, and so we have a total of 200 visits to this site.

Now the last thing to look at is the Upper Hulls Gulch Interpretive Trailhead. Now if you remember, we had 100 visits added, and we have our 100 trail segment visits. now, this is the best way that we have of collecting very accurate trail information is by adding it into the corridor, because not only do we get the visitation showing up in the trails themselves, but that use is also allocated to each of the sites along that trail.

To summarize what you have learned in this session, you now know how to explain the concept of a RMIS corridor, create a new corridor and its segments, create a formula for a corridor segment, how to apply an existing formula to a segment, and how to add visitor use numbers to a corridor segment. Now that you have learned about corridors, it is time to go out to your favorite corridor, be it a river, road, or trail, and enjoy your public lands.