



Travel Management Update

January 2008

In 2005, the Forest Service published a new rule that prohibits motor vehicle travel outside of designated routes and areas on the National Forests and Grasslands. The Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and the Crooked River National Grassland have been working with local interests to publish a Motor Vehicle Use Map in 2009.

In 2007 the Travel Management Working Group contributed more than 1400 hours to develop recommendations on how to implement the new rule. We held four public workshops in July of 2007 to present these recommendations. Over 200 participants were able to share their thoughts on the Working Group's recommendations for access to dispersed camping and where to consider designating motorized trails.

Using the recommendations and information gathered at the public workshops, Forest Supervisors selected:

- Methods to provide motorized access for dispersed camping, and
- Areas recommended by the Working Group for consideration of designated motorized trails.

Implementing the Travel Management Rule

The Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests now will begin a joint environmental analysis process to implement the Travel Management Rule.

Motorized travel by off-highway vehicles will continue on approximately 9000 miles of lower standard National Forest System roads. Motorized travel off of existing designated routes will be prohibited. Motorized access to dispersed campsites will be provided within 300 feet of most designated routes. In some areas, campsites may be accessed by a designated route.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared to analyze the effects of the changes to motorized travel on the Forests. A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS with a detailed description of the proposed action will be published in the Federal Register later this winter.

Considering Designated Trails

Due to funding restrictions, not all of the areas presented in the public workshops can be considered during this analysis process; however, additional areas could be considered in future analyses.

Areas were selected for initial analysis considering the following factors:

- current distribution of motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities in Central Oregon,
- providing opportunities for all classes of vehicles,
- providing opportunities where demand has been demonstrated, and
- locations where designated trail systems can be used to address social, resource and/or enforcement concerns.

Two classifications of areas were identified from Working Group recommendations:

- **Community Support Areas**

These are areas where there is conditional public support for modifying the existing designated system to provide for specialized motorized trails.

- **Important Areas**

These are areas where people agree there is a need to address issues related to unmanaged motorized recreation, but where no consensus on how to address the issues has been achieved.

Selected "Community Support" Areas

- **Henderson Flat OHV Area (Ochoco NF)**

This area is near a population center, and may be considered for expansion. There is some indication that existing issues and problems can be resolved by expansion and developing a new trail system.

- **Two Rivers/Boundary Springs (Deschutes NF)**

This area lacks designated motorized OHV trails and provides opportunities for West side users. Designation a trail system provides an opportunity to resolve conflicts between private landowners, motorized users, and other forest visitors.

- **Lava Cast Area (Deschutes NF)**

This area represents a portion of an area recommended by the Working Group. The area is near a population center and provides opportunities for all classes of vehicles. Recent data gathered at this location will support the environmental analysis. More of the area recommended by the Working Group may be considered after additional data collection.

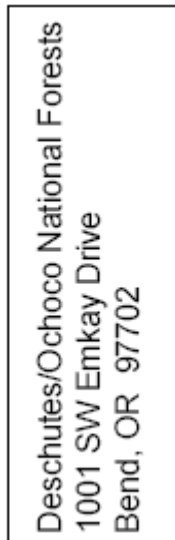
Selected "Important" Areas

- **McKay Creek (Ochoco NF)**

This area is near a population center and provides some Class II (vehicles more than 50" in width or more than 800 lbs) opportunities. Resource concerns include the reintroduction of steelhead trout.

- **Pine Mountain (Deschutes NF)**

This area is near a population center and is very important to Class II users. Resource issues at this location include maintenance of habitat for sensitive wildlife species.



Opportunities for Comment

You will have opportunities to comment throughout this planning process, as well as opportunities to participate in on-site development of proposed trail corridors in the spring and summer of 2008. A draft EIS is anticipated in the fall of 2008 with a final EIS and Record of Decision in the winter of 2009.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests & Crooked River National Grassland Travel Management Site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/travel-mgmt/index.shtml>

Central Oregon Off-Highway Vehicle Information:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/recreation/cohvops/index.shtml>

Oregon State Parks – OHV Site:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/ATV/index.shtml>

QUESTIONS?

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