

### **Are there closures for snow?**

Not officially, but trails may be impassable due to snow. We ask that you respect and care for the resources. If you can't see the trail, please don't proceed or forge a new trail.

### **Is it okay to ride on the snow?**

Although you may think it doesn't hurt the trails to ride on them when there is snow, it is actually just as bad as riding on them when they are fully saturated. This is because when you make a track in the snow, others will follow and use that same trail. This leaves major ruts which then carries snow melt down the trail causing erosion (see picture below).

### **Why are the trails closed?**

Rainfall closure guidelines are stated on the website: "On the Mendocino National Forest, the use of motorized vehicles is prohibited on any forest development trail after receiving approximately 2 inches or more of rainfall in a 24-hour period and or trails are saturated. Professional OHV managers can determine that trails need to be closed to protect the resources and financial investment if they are fully saturated and unable to sustain use. Trail closures will remain in effect until there has been 48 hours of NO measurable precipitation".

### **Exactly how much rain did you receive?**

We check the RAWS (Remote Area Weather Station) for actual precipitation measurements in real time. Fouts is the station used for the Grindstone Ranger District and Howard Mill station for the Upper Lake Ranger District. If Howard Mill rain gauge is inoperable, the Konocti location will be used for Upper Lake.

Pay attention to the sentence that says,

*Precipitation accumulated since midnight: 0.00", in 24 hours: 0.00"*

[MNF03 = Fouts Springs](#)

[MNF02 = Howard Mill](#)

[Konocti = Upper Lake](#)

The measurements are collected at certified weather monitoring stations in each area. There is a station in Fouts Springs, and another near Upper Lake.

### **When will you re-open?**

Once trails are closed, it generally takes 48 hours to allow trails to dry enough to be able to sustain use once again. If in that 48 hours we receive measurable rain, then we restart that 48-hour clock (or extend the closure) from the moment we get new rain.

### **So how long can trails really remain closed?**

Most of the time we are able to re-open the trails after 48 hours. Sometimes we get back-to-back storms and must keep trails closed longer. It just depends on the weather.

### **Who decided that 2 inches was the logical cut-off for when resources are at risk? What about when we have 1 1/2 inches for a week straight?**

Many years of field observations done by professional OHV managers have shown that by the time the trails receive approximately 2 inches of precipitation trails are saturated, resulting in soil movement and off-site impacts to water quality.

If the trails receive a considerable amount of rain, and are fully saturated to the point where OHV managers think there is risk for resource damage, they can determine that the trails need to be closed to protect the resources. For example, if we receive 1 inch of rain a day for 5 or 6 days in a row, the trails would be fully saturated and would need to be closed for resource protection.

### **How can I make sure the trails are open before I come up?**

Call, visit our website, or check our Twitter Feed before you come to the Forest to ride!

Stonyford Work Center 530-963-3128 (Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm)

Grindstone Ranger District 530-934-3316 (Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm)

Upper Lake Ranger District: 707-275-2361 (Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm)

Upper Lake OHV message line is 707-275-1430

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