Order No. 841

OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

Forest Development Roads
HARTS PASS ROAD RESTRICTION

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest:

1. Pulling any type of trailer that is defined under State Law as a trailer on the Harts Pass road (5400) from the intersection of the 5400000 and road 5400060 (the road that leads to the West Fork Methow trailhead) to Harts Pass and all roads beyond including 5400500/5400600/5400700. 36 CFR 261.54 (a)

This restriction is effective the date signed below and will remain in effect until rescinded.

Pursuant to Title 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

2. Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force, in the performance of an official duty.

3. Vehicles pulling snowmobile trailers that are hauling snowmobiles and that are 20 feet or less in length from the ball hitch / hitch point of the trailer connecting to a vehicle to the back end of such trailer. Any altered extension on such trailers will be included in total length. From the Dates of November 1 to December 1, and April 1 to June 1, of each year until such order is terminated. The road is closed to all motorized wheeled vehicles from December 1 to March 31 of each year. This replaces the closure shown on the Okanogan National Forest Travel Plan map for the 5400000 road.

Done at Wenatchee, Washington this 9th day of April 2014.

Michael L Balboni

Michael L. Balboni
Forest Supervisor
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Violations of these prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 for an individual or $10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both. (16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559 and 3571).

Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan

1. **Background** – This order replaces the order currently shown on the Okanogan National Forest Travel Plan map for the Harts Pass Road (5400000). It is initiated for public safety of people driving on the Harts Pass Road. The portion of the road from its intersection with the 5400060 road to it terminus at Harts Pass, is narrow and steep, with intermittent turnouts, and receives a considerable amount of vehicle traffic during the snow-free months. Vehicles pulling trailers would create a hazard on this section of road because drivers are frequently required to back up and pull into turnouts to let oncoming traffic pass. The portion of the 5400000 road from the forest boundary to the 5400000/5400060 intersection is closed to all wheeled vehicles from December 1 to March 31 each year.

The Harts Pass area is popular with snowmobilers early in the winter, and in the spring. The amount of traffic on the road decreases substantially in November each year when the snow covers the road, campgrounds, and trails, and does not start to increase again until June each year, when enough snow has melted to allow access to the campgrounds and hiking trails in the Harts Pass area. Allowing people to trailer snowmobiles on the road from November 1 to December 1, and April 1 to June 1 will give snowmobilers access to early and late season snow, while protecting all drivers during the busy season from June 1 to October 31 of each year.

The order will be posted as soon as the road is plowed each spring (typically in mid- to late-April). Permanent metal signs are already in place, but will be updated with clearer signs in the summer of 2014. The road will be patrolled regularly through the open season by law enforcement personnel and recreation employees.

2. **Intent of Subpart B Order** – The intent of the order is to educate and enforce trailer restrictions when such restrictions are posted and cooperate with the State of Washington to assist with the enforcement of those restrictions on the Harts Pass Road on National Forest System lands.

The order shall remain in effect until no longer needed. The affected area includes portions of National Forest System.