



Nez Perce N.F.
NEWS RELEASE

United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Nez Perce National Forest
104 Airport Road
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 12, 2009

**Contact: Laura Smith
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**Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use
Travel Management Public Meetings Planned**

In 2005, the Forest Service finalized new travel management regulations for motor vehicle use on National Forest System lands. To comply with the new regulations, the Nez Perce National Forest began revising the Forest's current travel management plan through a public planning process.

The public involvement process for the Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use Planning efforts will be continuous throughout all the phases of the project. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement was published in the Federal Register on May 17, 2007, officially starting the public involvement process. Open houses were held in May and June, 2007.

Public meetings are planned in late January and early February at Grangeville, Riggins, Lewiston and Elk City. The meeting schedule follows:

- Tuesday – January 27 - Confluence Conference Room in Headquarters Office, 104 Airport Road, Grangeville - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday – January 29 - Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Office, 189 Highway 95, Riggins, Idaho - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)
- Tuesday – February 3 - Idaho Fish & Game Conference Room, 1540 Warner Avenue, Lewiston - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday – February 5 - Red River Ranger District Conference Room, 300 American River Road, Elk City - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

These meetings will provide an opportunity for participants to review and begin commenting on our Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The meeting agenda includes a brief presentation and explanation of the DEIS document, maps, and alternatives. Following the presentation, the

public is invited to visit various work stations where employees can help clarify your questions regarding this proposal. Comment forms will be provided should anyone have comments they would like to submit at the meeting.

We are always interested in hearing from you. Primary ways to stay involved in the process include:

1) reviewing our website on a regular basis, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/recreation/>; 2) participating in scheduled meetings and other events, 3) providing written comments, and 4) making sure you are on our mailing list. These methods are described in the following paragraphs.

Comments may be submitted in three ways: via public comment form (available at website above or at local forest service offices), via email, and via U.S. Mail.

If you prefer to use U.S. Mail, please address your comments to: Nez Perce National Forest, Attn: Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use Planning, 104 Airport Road, Grangeville, ID 83530.

If you prefer to send your comments via email, please use this address:
comments_nezperce_DRAMVU@fs.fed.us

For more information, please contact Laura Smith, Public Affairs Specialist, at (208) 983-5143.

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