

NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



Colville National Forest

765 South Main St., Colville, WA 99114 OR www.fs.usda.gov/colville

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November 21, 2011

South End Project Decision Available on the Colville Nation Forest Web Site

Colville, Washington - Colville National Forest Supervisor, Laura Jo West, has signed the South End Motor Vehicle Management Decision. This decision designates a system of roads and trails that create motorized loop opportunities, connect communities, provides for quality dispersed camping opportunities, and restores damaged areas while protecting fish-bearing streams from damage.

The decision revises the Motor Vehicle Use Map for the south central end of the Colville National Forest between the Pend Oreille and Colville Rivers near Chewelah, WA. It designates an expanded system of routes for motor vehicle use (including off-highway vehicles) that will help connect communities, create motorized loop opportunities, and provide for public safety. The decision also includes actions to protect the area's fish-bearing streams and streamside vegetation by limiting where motor vehicles may leave roads for dispersed camping. In addition to protecting sensitive places in the area, the decision includes actions to rehabilitate areas that have been damaged from camping and motor vehicle use in the past. The actions included in this decision balance the needs and desires of the off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and the camping public with the critical need to protect and restore the healthy function of the impacted streamside areas on this portion of the forest.

"I'm pleased that we're able to offer a designated system of routes that provides a variety of riding experiences for OHV enthusiasts," Said Laura Jo West, Colville National Forest Supervisor. "Improving education and enforcement and rehabilitating areas damaged by illegal use are essential to striking a balance between recreation and healthy functioning ecosystems." Added West.

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

The Decision Notice and Environmental Assessment for the Colville National Forest's South End Motor Vehicle Management Environmental Assessment is available on the Colville National Forest Web site www.fs.usda.gov/colville. Copies are also available at each of the Colville National Forest offices.

For more information on the South End project, please contact Karen Honeycutt, Team Leader, at (509) 738-7738.

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