

# Access Fact Sheet

## *Wallowa-Whitman National Forest*



## What do I need to know?

Thank you for your interest in the forest! Beginning June 2012, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will have new rules for motorized travel called a Travel Management Plan (TMP). These changes are the result of the Forest Service's 2005 Travel Management Rule.

Prior to the Travel Management Rule, most Forest Service roads were open to motorized travel unless they were posted closed. After the Travel Management Rule, roads must be designated as **OPEN** on a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) or they are **CLOSED** to motorized travel.

## Is fuelwood or grazing affected?

### **The TMP Selected Alternative will:**

- ◆ Allow firewood removal with a motorized vehicle within 300 feet of either side of an open designated motor vehicle road (not trail), except for 59 miles that is not available due to resource protection requirements. A valid fuelwood removal permit is also required.
- ◆ Provide additional firewood opportunities through site-specific projects including potential opening of closed roads for firewood gathering in the future as deemed necessary.
- ◆ Continue grazing allotments in accordance with the terms and conditions of grazing permits. The Forest Service will work with permittees to address reasonable requests for motor vehicle use off of designated routes, including cross-country travel, when the use is critical for the operation of the permit.
- ◆ Provide the permittee with written authorization through the term grazing permit or annual operating instructions.
- ◆ Define access needs for special use permittees on a site-specific basis for each special use permit issued.

**Travel Management applies to all motor vehicles, except for snowmobiles and over-snow vehicles, on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Please visit the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman](http://www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman) for more information or to download the free Motor Vehicle Use Map (available June 2012).**

## What about my tribal or mining access?

### Tribal Access

- ◆ There are currently no special use permits, memorandums of understanding or agreements between the Forest Service and local tribes that provide tribal members with motorized access to closed roads or in closed areas.
- ◆ In some cases, tribal members may be issued free use firewood and structural pole permits for traditional gathering activities as authorized by treaty rights and the Forest Supervisor.
- ◆ Tribal members requesting motorized access off of designated routes must submit requests in writing to the appropriate District Ranger at least three days before requesting access utilizing the WWNF Administrative Access Request Form.

### Mining

- ◆ Reasonable access is a right under mining laws. The prohibitions in 36 CFR 261.13 and the designations for motor vehicle use on the MVUM do not prevent use of motorized vehicles where reasonable and necessary to conduct mineral exploration or operations pursuant to regulations at 36 CFR 228.
- ◆ If the proposed motorized use is likely to cause significant disturbance of surface resources, the operator is required to file a locatable mineral plan of operations with the district ranger pursuant to 36 CFR 228.4.

## Frequently asked questions

**Why are the rules changing?** In 2005 the National Travel Management Rule for the Forest Service was finalized. There were four primary reasons for the Rule:

- National consistency about where or when motorized access is allowed.
- Resource damage from inappropriate motorized uses.
- Conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users.
- Quality of recreational experience for all users.



**What does a MVUM do for me?** It tells you where and when you can travel on Forest Service roads and what type of vehicle can be used on different roads. It is updated annually.

**How much does a MVUM cost?** Nothing, it is **FREE**.

**Can I get the MVUM and more information?** Absolutely! Simply visit [www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman](http://www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman) or stop by any local Ranger District Office.