

Habitat 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 or they are **CLOSED** to motorized travel.

How is habitat and water affected?

The TMP Selected Alternative will:

- ◆ Reduce disturbance to riparian areas and associated potential for sedimentation impacting fish habitat.
- ◆ Emphasize motor vehicle route designations along ridge tops and areas away from streams, helping to limit stream crossings and overall impact.
- ◆ Reduce potential impacts to populations of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species by restricting cross-country travel, reducing motorized stream crossings in watersheds with ESA listed species present.
- ◆ Reduce motor-vehicle use on existing routes that intersect with existing noxious weed infestations in the top 10 watersheds of concern for invasive species. This will help minimize the risk of new invasive infestations or the spread of existing invasive infestations.

Thank you for visiting the WWNF, we're glad you are here! Please use caution around any wetland, stream, steep slope, cultural site or other fragile resource. The new TMP rule will allow parking for day use activities such as berry gathering, picnicking, or fishing within an area **300 feet** from designated **OPEN** roads (not trails). If the place you would like to go is more than **300 feet** from the edge of the **OPEN** road, you must park and walk the additional distance.

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 for more information or to download a free Motor Vehicle Use Map (available June 2012).

What about invasives, snags, or soils?

Invasive Plant Species

- ◆ Restrict cross-country motor vehicle travel to eliminate the highest potential for spreading existing noxious weed infestations and instigating new infestations across the forest.
- ◆ Reduce motor vehicle use on existing routes that intersect with existing noxious weed infestations in the top 10 watersheds of concern for invasive species.

Snag Habitat (Including Old Growth) and Snag Dependent Species

- ◆ Reduce the miles of roads available for motor vehicle use in allocated old growth areas and in inventoried roadless areas.
- ◆ Reduce the potential habitat disturbances and degradation.
- ◆ Reduce the loss of snags and logs being taken away as firewood in sensitive habitat areas.

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 Motor Vehicle Use Map do for me? It tells you where and when you can travel on Forest Service routes and what type of vehicle can be used on different roads. It is updated annually.

How much does a Motor Vehicle Use Map cost? Nothing, it is **FREE**.

How many total miles of designated motor vehicle routes are there in the entire WWNF? 4,300 miles.

Want to know more?

Simply visit www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman or stop by any local Ranger District Office of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

