

# New Rules of the Road

*Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests  
and Crooked River National Grassland*



## Travel Management What Does This Mean to You?

Beginning in 2011, the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River National Grassland established new rules for motorized travel.

These changes came from the Forest Service's 2005 Travel Management Rule and the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River National Grassland's Travel Management analysis.

### **Our Local Decision:**

No roads were closed on the two Forests and Grassland. Leaving **8,000 miles of roads OPEN for motorized use.**

In addition to this 8,000 miles, there are roads and trails that were either created by users or were closed through previous decisions. Not all of these roads were physically closed on the ground. Therefore, with the publication of the MVUM, some people are realizing, potentially for the first time, that a road or trail they use is actually closed.

We want you to know that with 8,000 miles of road there are errors on this first printing of the map. We will continue to work with the public to fix errors and to resolve access needs on the ground. We appreciate any corrections the public can provide.

### **Motor Vehicle Use Maps:**

The Forest Service publishes a **FREE** Motor Vehicle Use Map that shows all roads, trails, and areas that are **OPEN** for motorized travel.

You will use the Motor Vehicle Use Map to make sure that you are on a road or trail or in an area that is **OPEN** to motorized travel.

You can get a Motor Vehicle Use Map at any Deschutes and Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland offices. These maps are also available on line at: [www.fs.usda.gov/centraloregon](http://www.fs.usda.gov/centraloregon).

When you pick up your map spend a few minutes with a Forest Service employee looking at it. Our goal is for you to

understand the map so you can enjoy your recreational experience while following the new rules.

Also make sure you have all the maps you need. There are 13 Motor Vehicle Use Maps for the two forests and the grassland.

**Dispersed Camping:** You may camp anywhere on the two Forests or Grassland that is not specifically closed to camping. However, if you want to access a dispersed camping site that is more than 300 feet from an OPEN road or is not an established site (designated, defined, or existing) you may need to walk to your camping site. Please see pictures and directions on page 3.

**Cross Country Travel:** No motorized cross country travel will be allowed except in designated **OPEN** areas that are shown on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. There are 45 designated OPEN areas on the two forests and the grassland.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Why are things changing?** In 2005 the National Travel Management Rule for the Forest Service was finalized. There were four primary reasons for the Rule: 1) national consistency about where or when motorized access is allowed; 2) resource damage from inappropriate motorized uses; 3) Conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users; 4) Quality of recreational experience for all users.

**What is shown on a Motor Vehicle Use Map?** An MVUM displays roads, trails, and areas open to motorized use, class of vehicle and season of use as well as information on dispersed camping. It is updated annually.

**How much are the Maps?** They are **FREE**.

**Do these new rules apply to snowmobiles or machines?** No, over-snow motorized vehicle use is not changed by this decision.

**If no roads were closed why do I see roads on the ground that aren't on the Motor Vehicle Use Map?** In the past some roads were closed through other planning or administrative processes. Not all these roads were physically blocked. Looking at the MVUM is the first time some people may realize these roads are closed. Also, it may be an error. If you think there is an error on a map, we ask that you contact us and let us know so we can correct it.

**If I find an error on the map. What do I do?** We expect to find some errors on the maps. If you find an error, please contact your local Forest Service office or send an e-mail to our website with an explanation of the error.

**Do these rules apply to firewood cutting or mushroom harvesting?** Because firewood cutting and mushroom harvesting are managed

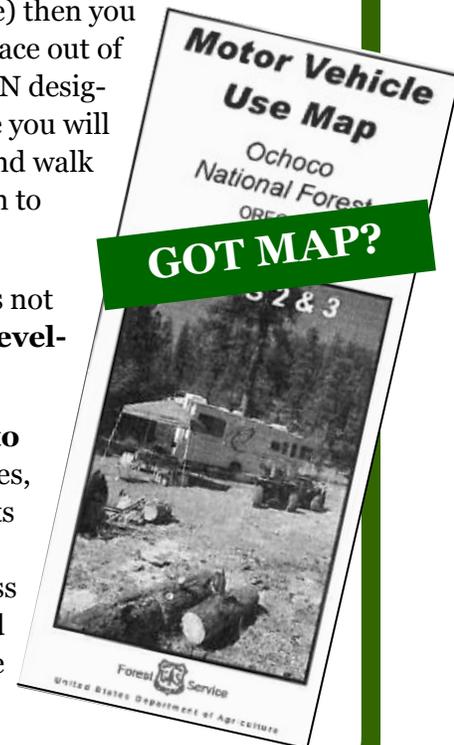
through permits, people should follow the rules of the permit in regard to motorized access.

**How do I know if I can drive to a DISPERSED camping site or if I need to walk into the site?** Dispersed camping, under travel management, is still allowed anywhere on the Forests and Grassland as long as an area is not closed to camping for other reasons. If you are going to a dispersed camp site that is **defined** by boulders, logs, or rocks, **designated** with a sign, or **existing** with evidence of past use. (See pictures and descriptions of these terms on the next page) then you may drive up to **300 feet off an designated OPEN road to access those sites**.

If you **ARE NOT** going to a dispersed camp site that is **defined, designated, or existing** camp site (See pictures and descriptions of these terms on the next page) then you will need to find a safe place out of the travel lane of an OPEN designated road to park where you will not damage vegetation and walk into your desired location to camp.

Travel Management does not change access to open, **developed** campgrounds.

**Are there any places to ride cross-country?** Yes, 45 cinder and/or rock pits are designated as areas where you can travel cross-country. They are found on the Motor Vehicle Use Map.



# Dispersed Camping: Three Types

## What is a Designated Dispersed Camping Site?

It is designated by a sign.



## What is a Defined Dispersed Camping Site?

It is defined by logs or rocks.



## What is an Existing Dispersed Camping Site?

It has an established fire ring or evidence of past use.



# Traveling Off Road 30' and 300' the Distances to Remember



**Drive no more than 300 feet from the edge of an OPEN road to access a site.**

Though you can travel off designated **OPEN** roads for dispersed camping, you will need to remember the distances 300' and 30'.

You only may drive 300 feet from the edge of a designated **OPEN** road to reach an **existing, designated or defined** dispersed camping site.

During the analysis of the travel rules, it was found that most dispersed camping sites are within 300 feet of the edge of a designated **OPEN** road.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
The photos are not accurate representations of 30 and 300 foot distances.

You will need to park 30 feet from any wetland, stream, spring, or lake.

**If you are at a dispersed camp site you must also remember to park at least 30 feet away from the edge of a wetland, stream, spring, or lake.**

This distance protects fragile vegetation next to these water bodies, which keeps the water clean and cool for fish and other aquatic species.

In addition, you are maintaining the scenic beauty of the campsite for future campers, including yourself!



# New Rules of the Road

## Designated Roads and Trails

The Motor Vehicle Use Maps display OPEN roads, the types of vehicles allowed, and any seasonal use periods. The maps' tables and legends will help you understand any vehicle class or seasonal restrictions.

Please take a few minutes with a Forest Service employee to help understand the maps.

Thirteen maps cover the 2.5 million acres of the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and the Crooked River National

Grassland. Unless you recreate across the entire 2.5 million acres, you will not need all the maps.

You can download the maps from our website to your GPS or mobile device. Not all brands of smartphones or laptops are supported at this time; however, we will continue to expand those opportunities.

We also will work to improve the accuracy, size and scale of the maps as we get feedback from the public on the maps.



*Approximate Miles of  
OPEN Motorized  
Roads and Trails*

*8,000 miles of Road  
350 miles of Trail*

### Deschutes National Forest

#### **Deschutes National Forest Headquarters**

63095 Deschutes Market Road  
Bend, OR 97701  
541-383-5300

#### **Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District**

63095 Deschutes Market Road  
Bend, OR 97701  
541-383-4000

#### **Crescent Ranger District**

136471 Hwy 97  
Crescent, OR 97733  
541-433-3200

#### **Sisters Ranger District**

Pine Street and Hwy 20  
Sisters, OR 97759  
541-549-7700

### Ochoco National Forest

### Crooked River National Grassland

#### **Ochoco National Forest Headquarters**

**Lookout Ranger District**  
**Paulina Ranger District**  
3160 NE 3rd Street  
Prineville, OR 97754  
541-416-6500

#### **Crooked River National Grassland**

813 SW Hwy 97  
Madras, OR 97741  
541-416-6640

#### **Rager Ranger Station**

7803 Beaver Creek Road  
Paulina, OR 97751  
541-477-6900

### WEBSITE

[www.fs.usda.gov/centraloregon](http://www.fs.usda.gov/centraloregon)