

## **A2 OHV RECREATION**

PROVIDE MOTORIZED RECREATION IN A PREDOMINATELY NATURAL OR NATURAL APPEARING ENVIRONMENT WITH A MODERATE DEGREE OF ISOLATION FROM SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF HUMAN ACTIVITY.

### **DESCRIPTION**

Applies to all or parts of roadless areas and/or other selected Forest areas [2,500 acres and larger] with an essentially natural appearing environment and meeting Semi-primitive (ROS) settings.

The following areas, or parts of areas, are included in the management area:

- Spangler Roadless Area (Pomeroy): and
- Lookingglass Roadless Area (Walla Walla).

### **DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION**

Moderate to large natural appearing areas will remain generally undeveloped (no logging but some constructed four-wheel drive ways). Recreationists will be able to enjoy a variety of challenging off-highway vehicle (OHV) opportunities on trails or drive ways, without standard developed roads and concentrations of people. Opportunities to enjoy hiking, camping, hunting, and other recreational activities in a natural setting will be available. Existing wheel tracks and primitive roads will become OHV trails.

### **MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

#### **RECREATION**

Manage recreation to a Semi-primitive Motorized setting (ROS Users Guide, USDA Forest Service n.d) within the area; Roaded Natural settings may occur along the boundaries.

Manage the area to keep contacts between users low to moderate. If needed, implement appropriate measures to meet social encounter criteria for Semi-primitive Motorized opportunities, based on limits of acceptable change criteria. Utilize minimum onsite controls and restrictions to protect resources and promote safe use of the area.

Access will be mostly for remote motorcycle or ATV and some walk-in activities. Motorized use will be limited to designated trails and closed roads (not cross-county); snowmobile use will be acceptable on an area basis.

Trail and associated facility construction, reconstruction, and maintenance will be permitted, including trails for OHV use. Trail systems will be designed and maintained to disperse use, provide varying but challenging motorized difficulty levels, and protect soil and water resources. Trail maintenance activities will be determined by amount and type of use, trail type, difficulty level, and appropriate trail guide.

#### **VISUAL**

Retention is the Visual Quality Objective (VQO) within the area and along area boundaries.

#### **CULTURAL**

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines

#### **WILDLIFE**

Wildlife habitat improvement projects are acceptable provided the projects meet the Retention visual quality objective and the goal for the Semi-primitive Motorized setting.

Provide habitat to support cavity excavators at 80 percent of potential population level.

Identified old growth units within the management area will be retained as part of the dedicated old growth system.

#### FISH

Fish habitat improvement projects are acceptable and will meet the Retention visual quality objective.

#### RIPARIAN

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

#### RANGE

A moderate level of grazing is permitted. Improvement maintenance and development are permitted. Improvement development is not to detract from the Semi-primitive setting. The full range of management strategies (B to D) could apply.

#### TIMBER

Timber harvest will not be scheduled. Tree removal or cutting may be allowed where the goal of providing a Semi-primitive Motorized setting can be met

#### WATER AND SOIL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

#### MINERALS AND ENERGY

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

#### LANDS

Land Classification II (acquisition) will generally be used to meet public needs. Lands may be exchanged in cases of demonstrated positive net public benefit.

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for lands and land uses.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Four-wheel drive ways are acceptable; these routes will be designed and managed to 'discourage' highway vehicle use.

#### FIRE

The appropriate wildfire suppression response should emphasize control and/or contain strategies for moderate to high intensity fires. Under appropriate fire prediction conditions, low intensity wildfires (0-2 foot flame length) may be permitted to play a natural role within the setting when resulting in a 1 to 2-year vegetative recovery.

Low impact wildfire suppression methods should be used; rehabilitation may be used to mitigate wildfire impacts in conflict with semi-primitive and visual quality objectives.

#### FUELS

Prescribed low intensity fire with a 1 to 2-year recovery is acceptable. A less than 1 year recovery is most desirable if conditions are suitable.

#### PESTS

Use integrated pest management (IPM) principles and strategies in meeting management area objectives. Suppress pests when outbreaks threaten dispersed recreation objectives or resources in adjacent areas. Favor biological methods when available.

Prescribed fire may be used to help reduce stocking and conditions favorable for bark beetle and dwarf mistletoes. Control of defoliators may also be accomplished by spraying following approval of an environmental analysis. Use of salvage harvest is limited to catastrophic events.