

WALLA WALLA RANGER DISTRICT MOTORIZED ACCESS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN SOUTH HALF

Why Are Some Roads Closed?

There are a number of reasons why some modes of travel are restricted on Public Lands. These are not always well understood, particularly if encountered unexpectedly. Reasons for restricting travel are as follows:

Wildlife Habitat Protection: Many closures protect areas critical to big game survival. These sensitive areas include winter ranges, calving grounds, or security areas. Some areas are closed seasonally and open to vehicle use during times of the year when big game are less likely to be disturbed.

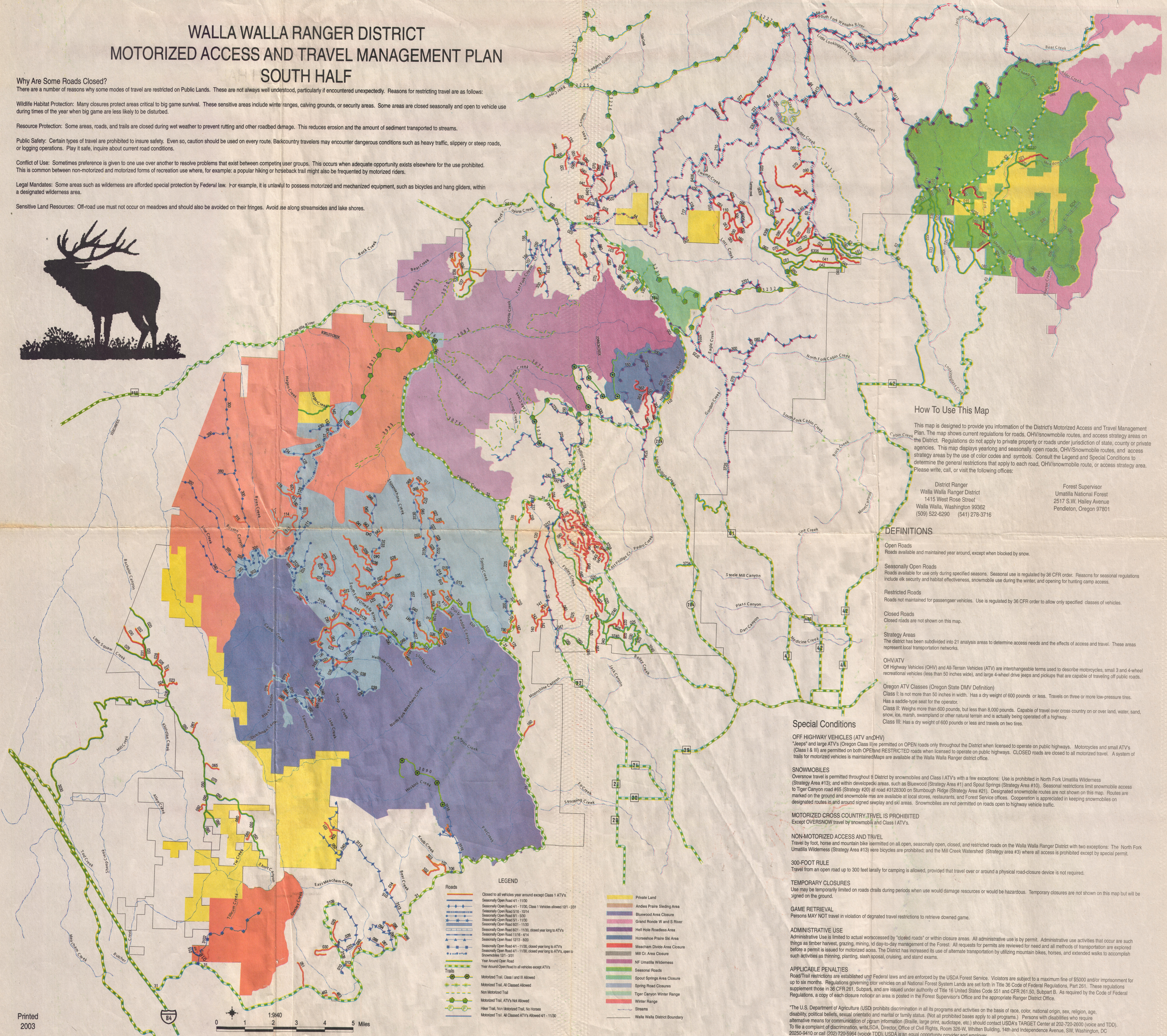
Resource Protection: Some areas, roads, and trails are closed during wet weather to prevent rutting and other roadbed damage. This reduces erosion and the amount of sediment transported to streams.

Public Safety: Certain types of travel are prohibited to insure safety. Even so, caution should be used on every route. Backcountry travelers may encounter dangerous conditions such as heavy traffic, slippery or steep roads, or logging operations. Play it safe, inquire about current road conditions.

Conflict of Use: Sometimes preference is given to one use over another to resolve problems that exist between competing user groups. This occurs when adequate opportunity exists elsewhere for the use prohibited. This is common between non-motorized and motorized forms of recreation use where, for example: a popular hiking or horseback trail might also be frequented by motorized riders.

Legal Mandates: Some areas such as wilderness are afforded special protection by Federal law. For example, it is unlawful to possess motorized and mechanized equipment, such as bicycles and hang gliders, within a designated wilderness area.

Sensitive Land Resources: Off-road use must not occur on meadows and should also be avoided on their fringes. Avoid use along streambanks and lake shores.



How To Use This Map

This map is designed to provide you information of the District's Motorized Access and Travel Management Plan. The map shows current regulations for roads, OHV/snowmobile routes, and access strategy areas on the District. Regulations do not apply to private property or roads under jurisdiction of state, county or private agencies. This map displays yearlong and seasonally open roads, OHV/snowmobile routes, and access strategy areas by the use of color codes and symbols. Consult the Legend and Special Conditions to determine the general restrictions that apply to each road, OHV/snowmobile route, or access strategy area. Please write, call, or visit the following offices:

District Ranger
Walla Walla Ranger District
1415 West Rose Street
Walla Walla, Washington 99362
(509) 522-6290 (541) 278-3716

Forest Supervisor
Umatilla National Forest
2517 S.W. Hailey Avenue
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

DEFINITIONS

- Open Roads**
Roads available and maintained year around, except when blocked by snow.
- Seasonally Open Roads**
Roads available for use only during specified seasons. Seasonal use is regulated by 36 CFR order. Reasons for seasonal regulations include elk security and habitat effectiveness, snowmobile use during the winter, and opening for hunting camp access.
- Restricted Roads**
Roads not maintained for passenger vehicles. Use is regulated by 36 CFR order to allow only specified classes of vehicles.
- Closed Roads**
Closed roads are not shown on this map.
- Strategy Areas**
The district has been subdivided into 21 analysis areas to determine access needs and the effects of access and travel. These areas represent local transportation networks.
- OHV/ATV**
Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) are interchangeable terms used to describe motorcycles, small 3 and 4-wheel recreational vehicles (less than 50 inches wide), and large 4-wheel drive jeeps and pickups that are capable of traveling off public roads.
- Oregon ATV Classes (Oregon State DMV Definition)**
Class I: Is not more than 50 inches in width. Has a dry weight of 600 pounds or less. Travels on three or more low-pressure tires. Has a saddle-type seat for the operator.
Class II: Weighs more than 600 pounds, but less than 8,000 pounds. Capable of travel over cross country on or over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland or other natural terrain and is actually being operated off a highway.
Class III: Has a dry weight of 600 pounds or less and travels on two tires.

Special Conditions

- OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES (ATV and OHV)**
Jeeps and large ATVs (Oregon Class II) are permitted on OPEN roads only throughout the District when licensed to operate on public highways. Motorcycles and small ATVs (Class I & III) are permitted on both OPEN and RESTRICTED roads when licensed to operate on public highways. CLOSED roads are closed to all motorized travel. A system of trails for motorized vehicles is maintained. Maps are available at the Walla Walla Ranger district office.
- SNOWMOBILES**
Oversnow travel is permitted throughout the District by snowmobiles and Class I ATVs with a few exceptions: Use is prohibited in North Fork Umatilla Wilderness (Strategy Area #13); and within developed areas, such as Bluewood (Strategy Area #1) and Spout Springs (Strategy Area #10). Seasonal restrictions limit snowmobile access to Tiger Canyon road #45 (Strategy #20) at road #43/28300 on Stumblough Ridge (Strategy Area #21). Designated snowmobile routes are not shown on this map. Routes are marked on the ground and snowmobile maps are available at local stores, restaurants, and Forest Service offices. Cooperation is appreciated in keeping snowmobiles on designated routes in and around signed swifly and ski areas. Snowmobiles are not permitted on roads open to highway vehicle traffic.
- MOTORIZED CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL IS PROHIBITED**
Except OVERSNOW travel by snowmobile and Class I ATVs.
- NON-MOTORIZED ACCESS AND TRAVEL**
Travel by foot, horse and mountain bike is permitted on all open, seasonally open, closed, and restricted roads on the Walla Walla Ranger District with two exceptions: The North Fork Umatilla Wilderness (Strategy Area #13) where bicycles are prohibited; and the Mill Creek Watershed (Strategy Area #3) where all access is prohibited except by special permit.
- 300-FOOT RULE**
Travel from an open road up to 300 feet laterally for camping is allowed, provided that travel over or around a physical road closure device is not required.
- TEMPORARY CLOSURES**
Use may be temporarily limited on roads/trails during periods when use would damage resources or would be hazardous. Temporary closures are not shown on this map but will be signed on the ground.
- GAME RETRIEVAL**
Persons MAY NOT travel in violation of designated travel restrictions to retrieve downed game.
- ADMINISTRATIVE USE**
Administrative Use is limited to actual work/processed by "closed roads" or within closure areas. All administrative use is by permit. Administrative use activities that occur are such things as timber harvest, grazing, mining, 10 day-to-day management of the Forest. All requests for permits are reviewed for need and all methods of transportation are explored before a permit is issued for motorized access. The District has increased its use of alternate transportation by utilizing mountain bikes, horses, and extended walks to accomplish such activities as thinning, planting, slash disposal, cruising, and stand exams.
- APPLICABLE PENALTIES**
Road/Trail restrictions are established under Federal laws and are enforced by the USDA Forest Service. Violators are subject to a maximum fine of \$5000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months. Regulations governing motor vehicles on all National Forest System Lands are set forth in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 261. These regulations supplement those in 36 CFR 261, Subpart, and are issued under authority of Title 16 United States Code 551 and CFR 261.50, Subpart B. As required by the Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of each closure notice or an area is posted in the Forest Supervisor's Office and the appropriate Ranger District Office.
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