

Okanogon-Wenatchee National Forest



Motorized Travel Management

Motorized Travel Management Update

August 2010

Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in the Travel Management Planning process on the Okanogon-Wenatchee National Forest. The Planning Team continues to work toward producing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for your review.



What's taken place since our last newsletter

In March 2009, a Proposed Action for Travel Management on the Okanogon-Wenatchee National Forest was released to the public for review and comment. This proposed action identified a system of roads, trails, and areas to be designated as open for motorized use. Once a system is

designated, motorized use off the system would be prohibited by regulation.



Over 500 public comments to the proposed action were received in April and May of 2009. A variety of issues were identified while additional proposals were given for adding or deleting routes from the proposed action. Some of the issues included:

- Effects of the proposed motorized system on resources.
- Effects of the proposed system on the local economy.
- Need for more motorized recreation opportunities.

Issues that were identified during the Planning Team review of public comments were used to formulate a range of alternatives to the proposed action. Public route proposals were then screened to ensure their compatibility with

the Forest Plan and adjacent landowner management. All proposals that made it through the screening are now part of a pool of routes used to develop alternatives.

During the 2009 field season, surveys were performed for different resources that could be affected by the motorized use alternatives. These surveys included cultural sites, aquatic resources, sensitive plants and animals, and other resources.

What's happening now

Using the issues, public proposals, and screening process the Planning Team defined alternatives; that is, the different ways the motorized system might look across the Forest. The team is currently analyzing the environmental effects of the alternatives.

What's next

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will document the Planning Team's analysis.

Using comments and input received about the DEIS, the planning team will complete any necessary further analysis and produce a Final EIS.

The final EIS will be used to inform Forest Supervisor, Becki Heath, as she decides on an alternative to be implemented for Travel Management on the Okanogon-Wenatchee National Forest.



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Website: www.fs.fed.us/r6/okawen/travel-management

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