



*Nez Perce N.F.*  
***NEWS RELEASE***

United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Nez Perce National Forest  
1005 Highway 13  
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 17, 2007**

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**Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use Planning**

The Nez Perce National Forest is undergoing planning efforts to comply with the designated routes and areas for motor vehicle use rule of November 9, 2005. The forest is proposing to analyze what routes and areas forest-wide are appropriate to designate and manage for motor vehicle use by class of vehicle and seasons of use. During the planning process, consideration will be made for user needs, effects on resources, rule requirements, and fiscal capabilities for continued maintenance.

We have:

- Reviewed the planning rule and determined what is required
- Established an interdisciplinary team (IDT) of employees
- Updated databases
- Reviewed the forest plan and pertinent amendments to determine our current condition
- Held internal meetings to display current condition on maps
- Created a timeline for completion of the analysis
- Met with Idaho County Commissioners to discuss the project
- Met with individuals or organizations as requested
- Finalized our proposed action

An end product of this analysis is printing a Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) that will display those routes and areas on the forest that are open for motorized vehicle use. This map will provide information to the forest user on which routes and areas where motorized vehicle use is allowed. It will

also provide the legal tool in which the forest can enforce motorized travel regulations. The MVUM map is due in the fall of 2009.

The Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on May 17, 2007. We have scheduled public meetings to discuss the proposed action and the process in which the public can become involved. These meetings will be held:

May 29, 2007 – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Red River Ranger District in Elk City

May 30, 2007 – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Soltman Center in Grangeville

May 31, 2007 – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Hells Canyon NRA Office in Riggins

For further information on travel management and the planning rule you can visit the following website – <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/rhwr/ohv/index.shtml> The Nez Perce Forest website will be available with local information by the end of May.

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