

NEWS RELEASE



United States
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Clearwater National Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Palouse Ranger District implements travel plan

Potlatch, ID -- Attention OHV (off-highway vehicle) enthusiasts: The Clearwater National Forest's Palouse Ranger District is implementing decisions made in the Upper Palouse ATV (all-terrain vehicle) Environmental Assessment signed in September 2005.

According to Palouse District Ranger Kara Chadwick, motorized users should note that effective May 15th, 2008, cross-country travel will be prohibited and all motorized vehicles must stay on designated roads and trails. Additionally, unauthorized user-created trails will be closed. She emphasized that these provisions apply only to lands within the Palouse Ranger District.

The Palouse District is the only unit on the Clearwater National Forest to have completed a travel planning analysis. A large travel planning effort that includes all remaining Clearwater National Forest lands is currently underway.

Chadwick said the District has made good progress following through with Assessment commitments to enhance opportunities for all-terrain vehicle users. She said 32 miles of trails and two new trailheads have been constructed in the Upper Palouse River drainage. Work will continue on the Bald Mountain associated loop trails this summer. When all construction is completed, she said approximately 50 miles of new trails will be available for use.

Trail work has been completed in partnership with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, the Lewis and Clark ATV Club and the Panhandle Trail Riders Association.

Chadwick encouraged off-highway vehicle users to acquire OHV stickers from their county courthouses. Proceeds generated from these stickers are used to fund trail projects such as those recently completed on the District.

The Clearwater National Forest Travel Guide, which describes roads and trails and allowed uses, and a supplemental document that includes the 2005 Palouse Ranger District travel decisions are available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/VisitorInfo/travel_guide/travel_guide.

A map of the newly signed and designated trails and two new trailheads is available at <http://www.idaho-ohv.org/maps/palouse.pdf>.

All documents and maps can be obtained at the Potlatch Ranger Station.

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For additional information, contact: Kara Chadwick
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Definitions: An OHV is defined as a motorcycle or ATV. A motorcycle is defined as a 2-wheeled motorized vehicle. An ATV is defined as a vehicle with 3 or more wheels that are less than 50 inches in total width measured at their widest point, and with a saddle style seat that is straddled by the operator and steered with handlebars.