

# West-End OHV Project

Summer 2008

## Heppner Ranger District, Umatilla National Forest

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Visit the project web page: [http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/recreation/westend\\_ohv/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/recreation/westend_ohv/index.shtml)



### What's Been Happening?

In February, the Heppner Ranger District sent out a proposed action to those of you on our project mailing list. In that letter, we requested your input on our proposal for managing Off-Highway Vehicles on the West-End OHV project area. Your comments on the proposed action were extremely useful as we developed alternative management options for the 91,000 acre area.

Several alternatives, each with a different focus, have been developed using your input. These alternatives will be evaluated in detail in an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will have descriptions of each alternative and the associated environmental effects. It will provide important information to the deciding official on the trade-offs associated with the alternative management approaches.

We expect to have the EA available for public comment sometime in September. It is important for the public to stay involved in a project like this one. We look forward to your feedback on the environmental assessment!

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### Who to contact:

Heppner Ranger District  
PO Box 7  
117 South Main  
Heppner, OR 97836

Tom Mafera  
District Ranger  
Phone: 541-676-9187  
E-mail: [tmafera@fs.fed.us](mailto:tmafera@fs.fed.us)

Lori Seitz  
Project Leader  
Phone: 541-676-2117  
E-mail: [lseitz@fs.fed.us](mailto:lseitz@fs.fed.us)

### The Process:

The Forest Service has revised its travel management regulations nationally to provide sustainable access for motor vehicles, including OHVs, on national forests and grasslands (Travel Rule).

The Heppner Ranger District began working with the public in October of 2006. Participation has been beneficial in identifying important routes and ways to use this area.

Route and area designation as well as vehicle class use decisions will be made locally.

Public participation at the local level is critical to the success of implementing the decision.

A map of designated routes will be available at the end of the process.

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### What's Next?

- *Distribute the EA for a 30 day comment period.*
- *Open Houses will be scheduled to allow you time to talk with the Deciding Official and other Forest Service employees.*
- *FS will review comments and make adjustments to the analysis as needed.*
- *The deciding official will make a decision on which alternative to implement.*
- *A Decision Notice will be distributed to all who have requested one.*
- *The project will be implemented in 2009.*



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Additional information about the rule: *Travel Management – Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use (Travel Rule)* may be found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv>