

**Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests,
and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications**

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon

For immediate release: May 21, 2008

Contact: Mollie Chaudet (541) 383-5517

Sue Olson (541) 383-5561

**There's Still Time!
Forest Service Hosting Open Houses on Motorized Access**

Central Oregon—To share your thoughts and learn about progress on motor vehicle access in the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River Grassland, please attend open houses in or near your Central Oregon community. Open houses were held in Sisters, Madras and Bend this week. There are three more opportunities in the days ahead.

Over the past year, personnel at the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests have been working with citizens, State, county and local governments to identify how to provide for motorized access to dispersed campsites. The Forest Service is now ready to begin environmental analysis of the proposal. The proposed action will be presented at the open houses in mid-May through June 2nd, providing opportunities for feedback from the public on the proposed action. The information will also be available for comment on the website at (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/travel-mgmt/index.shtml>) later this month.

The proposed action will continue to provide opportunities for motorized access for dispersed camping in the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and the Crooked River National Grassland. The proposed action also provides reasonable levels of public safety on mixed use (highway licensed and non-highway licensed vehicles) roads. This action will not apply to snowmobile use.

In November 2005, the “Final Rule for Travel Management: Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use” was published in the Federal Register. This rule establishes a requirement for all national forests and grasslands to identify and publish on a map routes and areas designated for motorized use, and to prohibit use outside of those areas, with the exception of providing access for fire, military, emergency and law enforcement purposes or use under Forest Service permit.

The Travel Management Rule was passed because of a number of resource and social concerns related to motorized travel on national forests, such as existing or potential damage caused to natural resources, costs associated with road and trail maintenance and restoration projects, user conflicts and public safety.

-more-

PUBLIC MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

May 27th	5:00-8:00 pm	Ochoco National Forest Supervisors Office 3160 NE 3 rd St. Prineville, OR
May 28 th	5:00-8:00 pm	Gilchrist High School 201 Mountain View Dr. Gilchrist, OR
June 2 nd	5:00-8:00 pm	Redmond High School Hugh Hartman Building 2105 W. Antler Ave. Redmond, OR

Information on the local effort and national management rule can be found at:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/travel-mgmt/index.shtml>