



Nez Perce N.F.
NEWS RELEASE



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Nez Perce National Forest
104 Airport Road
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 8, 2008

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Special Area Restriction in Place in a Portion of Meadow Creek

Grangeville--The Nez Perce National Forest has issued an emergency closure for a portion of Meadow Creek to restrict off-trail cross-country motorized travel and close Trail #541 to motorized use. A complete description of the Special Area Restriction and map is posted on the forest website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/news> and is also available at local forest offices.

The Forest has become aware that current motorized use of Trail #541 and cross-country travel off of this trail is having impacts on the aquatic resources in upper Meadow Creek, including impacts to listed fish species and designated critical habitat.

The Forest is currently working on a forest-wide effort that will designate the motorized routes (roads and trails) on the Forest, including public involvement, environmental analysis and a decision that will determine which trails on the Forest will be designated for motorized use. This effort is referred to as the Designated Routes and Areas for Motorized Vehicle Use (DRAMVU).

Cross-country motorized travel will not be allowed following the DRAMVU Decision based on the National Travel Management Rule. The Forest will be working through the DRAMVU process to provide motorized trail opportunities in balance with sustained desired resource conditions across the Forest, including in Meadow Creek.

The Meadow Creek watershed, tributary to the Selway River, is largely roadless. Meadow Creek provides high value spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous and resident fish, some of these fish species are listed

under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The area provides important backcountry recreation opportunities to a wide variety of forest users, particularly related to the trail system in the watershed. The trails in Meadow Creek include both motorized and non-motorized designations.

For further information, please contact Ralph Rau, Deputy Forest Supervisor, at (208) 983-7017 or Terry Nevius, Red River District Ranger, at (208) 842-2245.

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