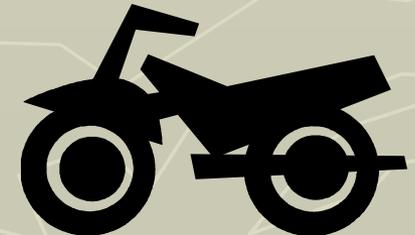
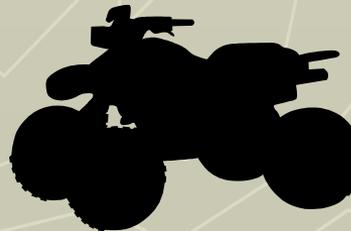


Nez Perce National Forest

Designated Route and Area for Motor Vehicle Use Planning

Public Meetings

May 29-31, 2007



National Background



In January of 2004, the Chief of the Forest Service Cited Four Threats to our National Forests. Including:

Unmanaged Recreation

From Threat to Strategy

- ▶ In July 2004 a national strategy was developed to handle the unmanaged recreation threat and published as a proposed rule in the *Federal Register*
- ▶ 80,000 public comments were received
- ▶ The final rule, "Travel Management; Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use," was published in November 2005

What Does This Mean For Your National Forests?

- ▶ **All National Forests are required to designate roads, trails, and areas appropriate for motor vehicle use.**
- ▶ **Decisions will be determined at the local level.**
- ▶ **The Nez Perce NF's deadline for completing this process is October 2009.**



Why is the Nez Perce NF Doing This?

- ▶ **The Nez Perce NF cannot meet the goals of 2005 OHV Planning Rule while allowing for unrestricted cross-country motor vehicle travel without this effort**
- ▶ **There has been an increase in user-created routes which have not been planned or managed by the Nez Perce NF that contribute to unmanaged recreation**
- ▶ **There are currently inconsistencies nationwide, as well as at the forest level, regarding motorized use**



What Will Change?

► Current Conditions:

- Special orders provide legal authority for enforcement.
- Areas and routes are open to cross-country travel unless specified closed.
- Districts or forests often not consistent with decisions across neighboring boundary lines.
- Access Guide

► Under New Rule

- The final map will be the legal authority for enforcement.
- Routes and areas will be **closed** to motorized use **unless designated open.**
- Forest-wide plan
- Nationally consistent

How Do We Get There?



- ▶ The Forest must do an environmental analysis.
- ▶ The planning effort will be forest-wide.
- ▶ This planning effort is focused on compliance with the rule.
- ▶ This planning effort will not address over-the-snow motorized use or non-motorized use.

Planning Process & Timeline

- ▶ **May – Nov '06: Collect Information and Display Current Condition**
- ▶ **Nov '06-March '07: Inform Key Internal and External Contacts**
- ▶ **March-April '07: Develop Proposed Action.**
- ▶ **May 17, 2007: Notice of Intent Published (45 days)**
- ▶ **May 23, 2007: Legal Notice of Scoping published (begins)**
- ▶ **May '07: Public Meetings, Explanation of the Process**
- ▶ **June '07: Public Meetings – work groups/route clarification**
- ▶ **July-October '07: Comment Analysis and Issue Identification**
- ▶ **Nov '07 – March '08: Develop and Analyze Alternatives.**
- ▶ **June '08: Release Draft EIS**
- ▶ **July '08: Comment Period**
- ▶ **Aug – Nov '08: Content Analysis**
- ▶ **Feb '09: Final EIS Published**
- ▶ **March – April '09: Appeal Period**
- ▶ **Sept '09: Final Map Available for Distribution**

Proposed Action

- ▶ Forest Service system roads & trails currently open to motorized use remain managed the same
- ▶ There will be **no** cross-country motorized travel allowed.
- ▶ There will be **no** addition or subtraction of existing Forest Service system roads or motorized trails
- ▶ Season of use and class of vehicle allowed is the same as current management
- ▶ There will be a 300' buffer on roads where motorized use, for dispersed camping only, will be allowed

When We Finish the Planning...

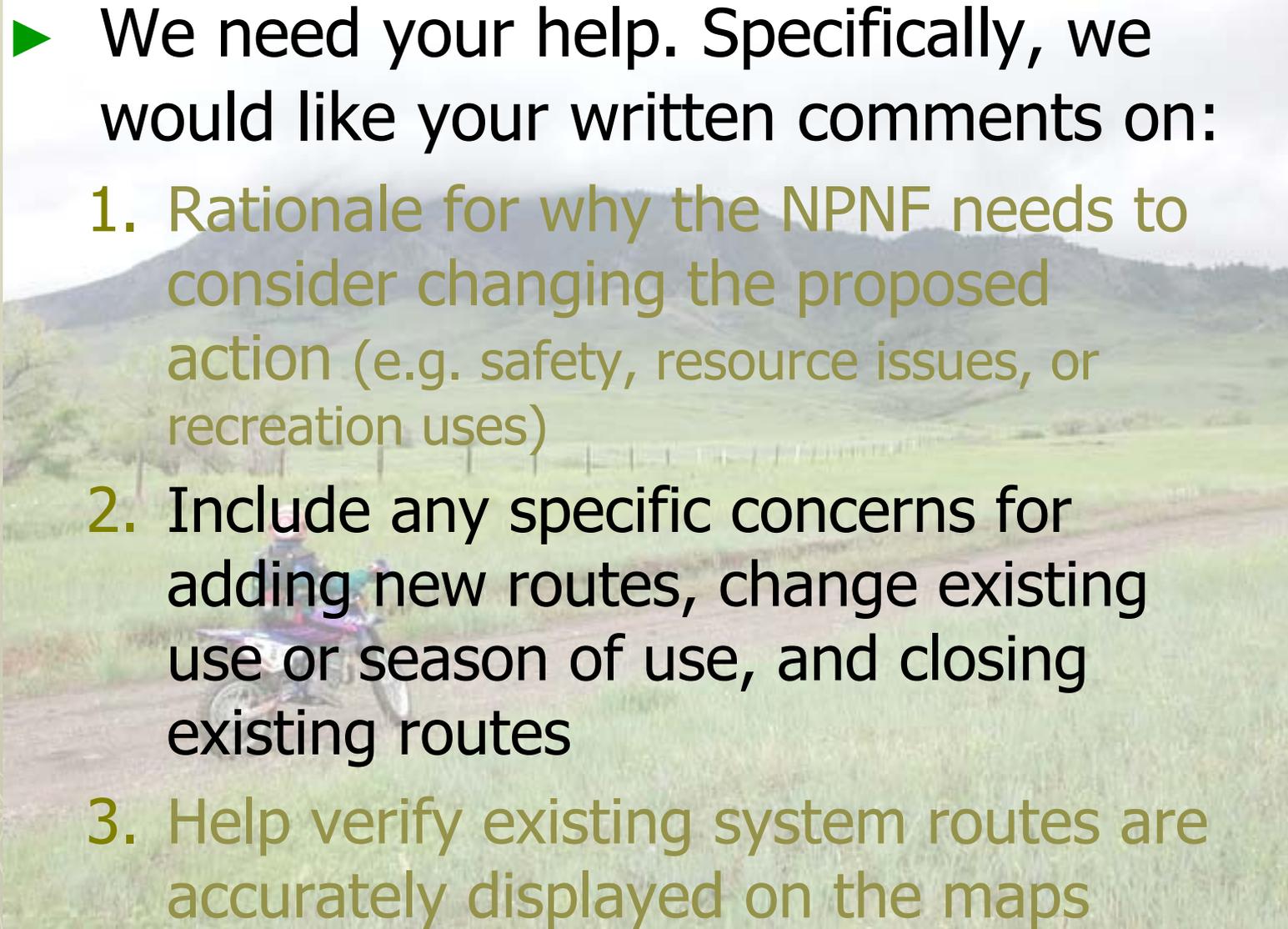


- ▶ The end product is called a *Motorized Vehicle Use Map* (MVUM).
- ▶ This Map will replace most special orders that address motorized access to the forest.
- ▶ It will be the legal instrument for enforcement.

Next Steps

- ▶ The Nez Perce NF is looking to the public to help with defining issues and concerns regarding our proposed action.
- ▶ Your input will help us to create alternatives to our proposal that may address those issues.
- ▶ Once created, alternatives will differ by miles of motorized routes, allowable uses, and restrictions.
- ▶ **This effort will offer** limited consideration of new routes and areas

Public Participation

- 
- ▶ We need your help. Specifically, we would like your written comments on:
 1. Rationale for why the NPNF needs to consider changing the proposed action (e.g. safety, resource issues, or recreation uses)
 2. Include any specific concerns for adding new routes, change existing use or season of use, and closing existing routes
 3. Help verify existing system routes are accurately displayed on the maps

Written Comments

- ▶ Useful comments should contain:
 - Name, address of commenter
 - Specific issue of concern
 - Ideas to address the issue noted, including proposing new routes or closing existing routes
 - Need comments back to forest by **July 2, 2007**
- ▶ We have comment forms and route proposal forms available

To Learn More About the Process

- ▶ Visit the Forest Service websites

www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/index.shtml

www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/projects