



Modoc National Forest
USDA Forest Service

News Release

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Contact: Kathleen Borovac (530) 233-8754
Laura Williams (530) 708-0889

Forest Roads Open Houses Set

Alturas...The Modoc National Forest will soon begin the formal NEPA (National Environmental Process Act) process for travel management, similar to other Forests across the country. Over the past eight months, the Forest has held four listening sessions and many informal group discussions. Vehicle access to most of the Forest has been in place for many years. Currently, the Forest has about 5,000 miles of designated system roads for public use. We are not proposing to close these existing National Forest System (NFS) roads through this process, with the exception of one road, 46B29HB (Boles Creek), that will be closed for resource protection.

What is proposed, based on national direction, is restricting motorized travel to designated routes and prohibiting cross country motorized travel. A number of inventoried non-system roads are proposed to be added to the NFS road system. Seasonal travel restrictions are proposed that will reduce damage to roads during periods of wet road conditions. We have also proposed to limit the amount of OHV use on our major roads to reduce travel hazards to the public.

Four open houses to discuss the proposed actions of the Modoc National Forest's Travel Management are scheduled. These open houses are an opportunity to informally interact with Forest staff about the proposed actions and accompanying maps. Open houses will be from 6 to 8 p.m.:

Mon. May 19 Cedarville Ranger District Office, 385 Wallace St., Cedarville, CA
Tues. May 20 Modoc National Forest Office, 800 W 12th St., Alturas, CA
Wed. May 28 Adin Community Memorial Hall, Adin, CA
Thurs. May 29 Honkers, 810 Main St., Tulelake, CA

Last fall, public input was received at a number of meetings, including four open houses in November. A proposed action was developed based on public input and resource specialist evaluation. In the next month, a notice of intent will be published in the Federal Register. This will be the official start of public information gathering.

“We listened to the comments and concerns of people at the first round of workshops,” said Forest Supervisor Stan Sylva. “We’ve carefully considered what people told us and

we've looked at and discussed each segment of the inventoried non system routes proposed to be added to our permanent road system. Now I'm asking Forest users to look at our best effort and share with us your thoughts about the proposed action maps."

As soon as the Federal Register notice is published, maps of the proposed action will be available online and on CD. Hard copies of the maps will be available for viewing at all Modoc National Forest offices.

People's comments on the proposed action maps are vital for development of our updated travel system. The Forest will develop alternatives to the proposed action from the comments that are sent in and that we gather at the open houses. The interdisciplinary planning team will use your feedback to help identify the significant issues and evaluate environmental effects for proposed changes to our road system. Based on this analysis, a draft Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.

For additional information or to schedule a Forest Service person to talk to your group, call Laura Williams at (530) 233-8713. Learn more about travel management at www.fs.fed.us/r5/modoc.

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