

NEWS



Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area



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National Scenic Area Seeks Public Input to Assist With National Forest Roads Analysis Process

HOOD RIVER, November 12 – The public is invited to attend two public “open houses” to help the USDA Forest Service determine how best to manage and maintain the National Forest road system within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. A “roads analysis” process initiated this fall will help National Scenic Area managers identify an affordable forest roads system that meets public and resource needs.

“We want to make the best use of our limited road maintenance dollars,” said Kim Titus, acting area manager. “Public feedback during the analysis process will help us determine how we should maintain a safe, environmentally sound road network that is responsive to public needs and affordable to manage.”

Two public open houses will be held to explain the “roads analysis” process and solicit feedback from the public. The open houses are scheduled for Tuesday, December 3 2002, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Hood River Inn in Hood River, Oregon and Wednesday, December 4, 2002, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Rock Creek Center in Stevenson, Washington. National Scenic Area Forest Service staff will be available to provide information and answer questions at these open houses.

The objective of the roads analysis process is to assist National Scenic Area staff in managing a road system that is safe and responsive to public needs and desires, is affordable, and reduces adverse environmental effects. The analysis will produce a road management strategy, but is not a decision document. The results of this analysis will help the National Scenic Area set priorities for road maintenance funds and make recommendations for future uses and needs for National Forest roads within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. This process will not result in any immediate closure or decommissioning of National Forest roads but will identify problem areas as well as opportunities and priorities.

For questions about the National Forests road analysis process, contact Allen Morrissette, at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area office at 541-308-1722 or find additional information at www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia.