

New Categorical Exclusions for Soil and Water Restoration Road and Trail Restoration

Project: Palouse Trail Decommissioning Unit: Clearwater National Forest, Palouse Ranger District

What Were The Restoration Needs?

The district identified approximately 17 miles of undesignated trails that off-highway vehicle (OHV) riders used as a trail network. Use of this extensive undesignated trail network had degraded the surrounding aquatic, riparian, and trail resources.

What Activities Were Implemented?

Due to the unacceptable environmental conditions, this trail network was identified as having a high priority for needed restoration work. This project entailed locating and surveying the undesignated trails used by OHV riders. Following identification, undesignated trails were decommissioning and riparian areas were restored.

What Are The Benefits of Restoration?

The trail decommissioning provided protection to water, stream, meadow and riparian resources. Restoration work rehabilitated the damaged landscapes and aquatic resources to proper functioning conditions. The project also included the development of educational outreach to promote responsible OHV riding.

Who Were The Partners?

The Clearwater National Forest partnered with the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) to complete this restoration work. The PCEI and the forest continue to partner on other trail restoration and OHV education projects.

Before:



Immediately After:



Two Years Later:

