

Field Office holds informational meetings, prepares and distributes a Travel Map, installs signs identifying the restricted or closed areas, and contacts public land visitors via the media and in the field.

Changes in OHV designations were primarily made to address existing or potential future impacts to cultural, historic, and scenic resources; fisheries and wildlife habitat; undeveloped and non-motorized recreational opportunities; and native vegetation in the Salmon Field Office area. These designations were developed based on public and tribal input and an environmental analysis of various management alternatives. This closure and restriction order supersedes the OHV designation and closure notices published in the **Federal Register** by the Salmon District Office on September 5, 1986; September 29, 1987; and April 24, 1989.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information about the amended OHV designations or to obtain a copy of the RMP amendment (which includes maps of the OHV designations), please contact Michael Liner, Outdoor Recreation Planner, by phone at (208) 756-5466, by e-mail at Michael_Liner@blm.gov, or by mail at the Bureau of Land Management, 50 Highway 93 South, Salmon, Idaho 83467.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The majority (about 96.5%) of public lands administered by the Salmon Field Office now have an OHV designation of "limited," which means that motorized vehicle travel within specified areas and/or on designated routes, roads, vehicle ways, or trails is subject to restrictions. The remaining public lands (approximately 3.5%) are designated "closed"; i.e., motorized vehicle travel is prohibited in those areas.

Exceptions for Off-road Vehicle Use—Excluding the Eighteenmile Wilderness Study Area (WSA), located about 15 miles southeast of Leadore, Idaho (see point "(1)" of the Limited and Closed Designation Areas in the following two paragraphs), temporary exceptions to the OHV limitations and closures for the Salmon Field Office area may be authorized for any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while it is being used for emergency purposes, any vehicle in official use, and any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized in writing by the authorized officer.

The following additional exceptions for off-road travel may apply in "Limited" Designation Areas; vehicle use may be allowed:

(a) Within 300 feet of existing roads, vehicle ways, or trails for direct access to campsites, to retrieve downed big game, or to harvest forest products;

(b) Immediately adjacent to existing roads, vehicle ways, and trails for purposes such as parking, turning around, or passing another vehicle;

(c) If the vehicle weighs 1,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and is traveling on at least six inches of continuous snow cover; and

(d) Snowmobiles on groomed trails only.

These exceptions (a) through (d) are referenced in the "Limited Designation Areas" section below when they pertain to a given limitation.

"Closed" Designation Areas—The areas designated "closed" to OHV use are as follows. (1) The portion of the Eighteenmile WSA recommended to Congress as suitable for wilderness designation (14,796 acres) is closed to OHV use to maintain the area's suitability for wilderness designation. Temporary exceptions for OHV use are allowed in emergencies and search and rescue operations, for official purposes by the BLM and other Federal, State, and local agencies, and to build or maintain structures or installations, as provided for in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM 1995). (2) The 236-acre Trail Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), located approximately 12 miles west of Lemhi, Idaho, is closed to OHV use to preserve the unroaded old growth forest and riparian habitat and provide additional protection to high quality elk habitat. (3) About 1,200 acres on the hillside above the Chief Tendoy Cemetery (located about 20 miles southeast of Salmon, Idaho) are closed to OHV use for safety reasons (the area is extremely steep and hazardous). (4) Approximately 1,080 acres in the Birch Creek Springs area located about 35 miles south of Leadore, Idaho, are closed to OHV use to protect the unique wetland, riparian, and vegetative resources of the area.

"Limited" Designation Areas—Specific restrictions within "limited" designation areas are as follows. (1) OHV travel within the portion of the Eighteenmile WSA recommended to Congress as "non suitable" for wilderness designation (10,126 acres) is limited yearlong to one designated route along the northwestern boundary (the Powderhorn Gulch Road) to allow some motorized access to the WSA while still protecting the WSA's suitability for wilderness designation (exception (b) applies). Temporary exceptions for OHV use off of this route are allowed in emergencies and search and rescue

operations, for official purposes by the BLM and other Federal, State, and local agencies, and to build or maintain structures or installations, as provided for in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM 1995). (2) OHV use within the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) (about 4,600 acres located along the eastern boundary of the Field Office area) is limited to designated routes to reduce conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities within the SRMA and to provide habitat security for wintering big game. The following designated routes may be used yearlong: The portion of the Divide Road beginning about six miles south of Lemhi Pass, the Copper Queen Road, the Cow/Yearian Divide Ridge Road, the two branches of the Reese Creek Road, the Reese/Peterson Divide Ridge Road, the Whiskey Springs Ridge Road east of State Highway 29, and the "spur" road off the Whiskey Springs Ridge Road (exceptions (a), (b), and (c) apply). A northern section of the Divide Road (beginning at the Copper Queen Road intersection and continuing about four miles to the Cow/Yearian hydrologic divide) and two spur roads off the Divide Road may be traveled seasonally, from May 1 through December 15 (exceptions (a), (b), and (d) apply). (3) OHV travel within the Chief Tendoy Cemetery is limited yearlong to the designated route to the monument (no exceptions for off-road travel) to ensure protection of the Cemetery and associated Native American burials. This 40-acre parcel in T19N, R24E, B.M.

Section 28: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ was reserved for an Indian Cemetery by a Secretarial decree on October 1, 1907. (4) OHV travel within the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail SRMA (three areas totaling approximately 31,014 acres) is limited to designated routes to protect the historic trail from ground disturbance and to maintain the natural and historical integrity of the trail area. In the River Bluffs area just north of Salmon, Idaho, OHV use is limited yearlong to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease site designated use areas (two areas totaling about 74 acres), the River Bluff Road, the Sagehen Flat Road, the Powerline Road, and the road that heads south from the Powerline Road toward Kirtley Creek (no exceptions for off-road use apply). (Note: The designated use areas within the Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease site are provided to be consistent with the lease stipulations.) OHV travel within the Agency Creek portion of the