

NEWS



Forest Service

*United States
Department of
Agriculture*

Lassen National Forest

*2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130*

*Contact: Heidi Perry
(530) 252 6604, or
Leona Rodreick
(530) 252-6605*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, June 10, 2004
For TDD assistance, please dial (530) 252-6624.

LAS 04-35

ATV's Damaging Meadows on Lassen National Forest

Susanville, Calif.... Recently, people driving All Terrain Vehicles, or Off Highway Vehicles commonly known as ATV's or OHV's, left the roads and entered into fragile and sensitive meadows on the Hat Creek and Eagle Lake Ranger Districts. As a result of this, a number of meadows have been extensively damaged. "When this type of damage occurs, the whole ATV/OHV community is at risk of losing riding opportunities on the Lassen National Forest," said Jeff Withroe, Acting Forest Supervisor, "I encourage individuals who either witness, or have knowledge of illegal OHV riding, or damage from these activities to contact the Lassen NF."

With the number of OHV/ATV operators rapidly growing every year, the repeated and often unintentional misuse of OHV's/ATV's can quickly create environmental damage. By using common sense and taking a few precautions, OHV operators can assure that the areas on the Lassen NF they frequent will remain available and in good condition.

Here are a few helpful tips:

- Avoid "spooking" livestock and wildlife, slow down and keep voices low.
- Sensitive wildlife habitat such as wetlands, streams, meadows, and fields should be avoided. Crashing through undergrowth, or across meadows can destroy bird nesting sites.
- Avoid side slipping, which can start a rut, ultimately leading to erosion.
- Cross streams at fording points only.

-more-

Individuals who are caught causing resource damage will be prosecuted and can be fined \$5,000, six months in jail or both. In addition to this, restitution costs for restoring damage may be sought from those individuals.

Anyone wishing to know more, or report information may contact the following offices: Almanor Ranger District (530) 258-2141; Eagle Lake Ranger District (530) 257-4188; Hat Creek Ranger District (530) 336-5521; or, Lassen National Forest Headquarters (530) 257-2151.

-LNF-