

# NEWS



**Forest Service**

*United States  
Department of  
Agriculture*

**Lassen National Forest**

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## **Lassen National Forest To Host Public Meetings**

In July, the USDA Forest Service issued two proposed rules. The first affects OHV travel within the national forests; the second addresses the conservation and future management of over 58 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on national forest land in 39 states, including California. Both proposed rules can be found at [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

The Lassen National Forest will be hosting three public meetings to discuss both rules and the Forest's OHV route designation process. Pursuant to the proposed OHV rule and a state-wide Memorandum of Intent with the State Department of Parks and Recreation and the Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission, the Forest Service will be restricting OHV travel to designated roads, trails, and small OHV riding areas. The public can be engaged throughout this process over the next several years, the following is a brief summary of both proposed rules.

### *Proposed OHV Rule:*

Because of the tremendous growth of wheeled OHV's over the past several decades and concern over resource impacts and social conflicts, the proposed rule requires the establishment of a system of roads, trails, and areas designated for motor vehicle travel. Once designations are complete, wheeled motor vehicle use off the designated system would be prohibited unless specifically exempted by a forest order. The proposed rule would apply to all classes of wheeled vehicles including non-licensed vehicles with a Greensticker. Designated snowmobile trails are not proposed. Snowmobile use would be managed as it is currently, that is, it would be allowed, restricted or prohibited as appropriate.

### *Proposed Roadless Rule:*

The proposed roadless rule would replace the January 12, 2001, roadless rule that has been enjoined by court order and never implemented. Legal proceedings are still ongoing. The proposed rule allows governors to review existing management requirements for roadless areas and to petition the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to adjust them. State petitions must be received within 18 months from the effective date of the final rule. The petitioning process is designed to be collaborative with public involvement. During this interim period, most decisions regarding proposed road construction or timber harvesting in inventoried Roadless areas will be reserved to the Chief of the Forest Service.

The public meetings will be held at the following locations:

- Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Chamber Conference room at Chico City Hall, 421 Main Street, Chico.

- Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hat Creek Ranger Station, 43225 East Highway 299, Fall River Mills.
- Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at the Almanor Ranger Station, 900 East Highway 36, Chester.

If you would like additional information about these rules, please contact Elizabeth Norton, Public Services Officer, at 530-252-6645 or via e-mail: [enorton@fs.fed.us](mailto:enorton@fs.fed.us).

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