



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
Forest Supervisor's Office

903 3rd Street
Kamiah, ID 83536
Telephone: 208-935-2513
Fax: 208-935-4275
Grangeville Office: 208-983-1950

File Code: 1950

Date: July 11, 2014

Dear Interested Party,

In November, 2011, I signed the "Record of Decision" for the Clearwater National Forest Travel Management Plan (ROD) which designated motorized use on specific roads and trails for recreation and general travel, including the type of vehicle that is allowed on the designated route and the time of year. The ROD followed several years of extensive public involvement and input from cooperating agencies. Through implementation over the past two years, I have found that while not everyone is in total agreement and there are ongoing legal challenges, the decision does provide opportunities for all users and is generally accepted and supported by the public.

In the 2011 Travel Plan decision, only ATVs with a straddle seat and handlebar configuration are permitted on routes designated as open to motorized vehicles 50" or less in width. Since the Travel Plan decision, the motor vehicle industry has continued to develop off-highway vehicles with a wheelbase of 50" or less in width that have side-by-side seating and steering wheels. These types of vehicles do not exceed the 50-inch width restriction and thus I consider them to be allowable on the designated ATV trails in the 2011 Travel Plan decision. We are the only Forest in Idaho that limits the type of seating and steering arrangement when applying the 50" definition to OHVs. While this clarification in definition may change what people think about the type of vehicle they can ride on these roads and trails, there is no difference from an environmental standpoint between a 50" or less OHV with straddle seating and handlebars and one that has side-by-side seating and a steering wheel.

The intent of this letter is to clarify and accommodate the use of vehicles 50" or less in width on the roads and trails designated open to these vehicles, and not restrict the use of an OHV based upon the seat and steering configuration of the recreation vehicle.

I appreciate your continued involvement and interest in the management of the roads and trails on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this clarification of allowable vehicle types on ATV trails, please contact Carol Hennessey at (208) 935-4270.

Sincerely,

RICK BRAZELL
Forest Supervisor

