

2006-2007: Controlling (?) Motorized Recreation . . .

Travel Planning Underway

A travel plan is an important agency document, which designates allowed uses on trails, roads and areas. The BLM Challis Field Office is developing a new Travel Plan and the Salmon-Challis National Forest is revising its 1994 existing plan. Over half of the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains lie within these two agencies' jurisdiction. (The Sawtooth Forest's travel plan revision does not affect the Boulder-White Clouds.)

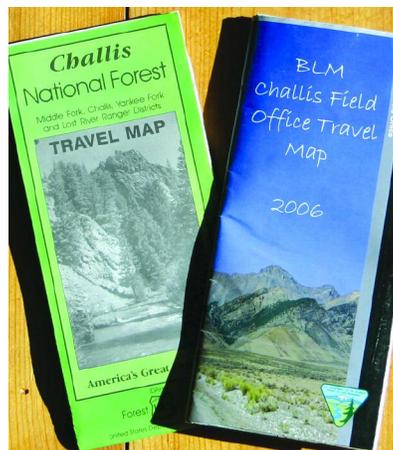
The BLM and Forest Service have been holding open house meetings and asking for public input. BWCC has commented on behalf of non-motorized trail users. We've also discussed with officials where motorized use is allowed and may be appropriate.



While on a BWCC outing to Jimmy Smith Lake, Bill and Jeanne Cassell and Marlene Keene check out an ATV. Users of ATVs are pushing for more areas to ride, especially loop routes.

BLM - For this first-round of information gathering, comments are due by Nov. 30, 2006. BLM would like to hear how you use your BLM lands. Call Recreation Specialist Jeff Christenson, 879-6212, Challis, and relay the activities you enjoy (hiking, horseback riding, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, etc.) and where you do them. Dave Rosenkrance is the Challis Field Office manager.

Next summer BLM will host field trips to places like Corral-Horse Basin and Jerry Peak Wilderness Study Areas in the White Clouds as part of their Travel Planning NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process. BLM hopes to finalize their travel plan by December 2007.



MAP - BLM has a new color map, intended to serve as a baseline for trails, four-wheel drive "ways" and roads. For a map copy contact BLM in Challis (208) 879-6200.

USFS - The Salmon-Challis National Forest will produce a draft travel map next Spring and then host meetings and field trips over the summer. The Forest's NEPA analysis will continue through 2008 with a final decision that year and new maps available by 2009.

The Forest would like to hear from you now as they develop their plan. There is a form to be completed and mailed (BWCC can supply you with the form). Or, you can also call the District Rangers and talk about specific trails. Here are the numbers:

Bart Gamett, Acting Ranger, Lost River Ranger District, 588-3400, Mackay.

Tom Montoya, Middle Fork District Ranger, 879-4101, Challis.

Ralph Rau, Challis-Yankee Fork District Ranger, 879-4100, Challis.



USFS NEW TRAVEL DIRECTION

Good news last year from the Forest Service regarding future motorized use on public lands:

- motorized routes must be designated officially as such on a travel plan
- cross country motorized travel (except for snowmobiles) will not be allowed
- motorized recreationists are responsible for having a current travel plan map and knowing what motorized use is allowed. No longer will missing closed signs on trails be accepted as an excuse for motorized use in a non-motorized area (often closed signs are ripped down)

These new Forest Service rules will be similar to hunting regulations that require hunters to take responsibility to know what unit they are in and what hunting is allowed.

Director Lynne Stone and Middle Fork District Ranger Tom Montoya go over the current Salmon-Challis National Forest map at the Cape Horn Guard Station. The scenic Cape Horn area has wild chinook salmon spawning habitat. The name Cape Horn comes from the noticeable bend that Highway 21 takes as it leaves Marsh Creek and heads for Banner Summit.