

FAQs/Questions and Answers

Pacific Northwest Region – Colville National Forest

South End Project - June 4, 2014

What's been happening? The final South End Environmental Analysis became available to the public in January 2014 for review during a 45-day objection period. The Forest Service received two formal objections during that period which were reviewed by the Pacific Northwest Regional Forester. An objection resolution meeting was held in accordance with the 36CFR 218.11(a) on April 24, 2014. The meeting resulted in some solution being proposed. However, all objection points were not resolved prior to the conclusion of the meeting, so the dialogue with objectors continued over an additional 30-day time period. The subsequent meetings held productive discussions but did not result in further resolution. The Regional Forester provided documentation of his review on May 27, 2014 and the project decision was signed by Laura Jo West, Colville National Forest Supervisor on May 31, 2014.

The Colville NF will move forward with required safety analysis and restoration efforts in a phased approach starting the summer of 2014. We anticipate that a portion of the new mixed-use routes could be available as soon as 2015.

What is going to change and over how long? The biggest changes you can expect to see over the next 15 years are the following: New OHV routes, three new developed trailheads, moving designated camping away from creeks, the temporary closure of the Philips Lake area for rehabilitation and restoration of damage that has occurred over the years.

What's keeping the decisions from being implemented quickly? This is a large project area, with a number of complex restoration efforts. In order to implement in manageable increments, this project will be phased in over the next 15 years. Each potential route requires a **safety analysis** and a one year monitoring period to ensure there is no unauthorized motorized use off of designated routes.

What now? Priority routes have been identified that connect communities and provides loop opportunities for riders. Some of these routes connect the Chewelah and Pend Oreille communities

Does this mean I can ride all of these routes right now? Not quite yet, the project will be implemented in phases as designs are completed and staffing allows. There are current routes that are open to mixed motorized use. To ensure you are on a legally open route, please check the most current version of the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). It's critical to understand that only routes shown on the latest version of the MVUM are open to use.

Why should I stay on routes shown on the MVUM when there are other trails to ride that are not on the map? If new unauthorized routes are created or existing unauthorized routes are continued to be used, the implementation plan will not allow that route to be added to the MVUM.

Are you going to be posting signs? Yes, in limited areas. Remember that the MVUM is the only legal route map – If it isn't on the MVUM it isn't an open route.

Can I camp where I've always camped? Restoration and rehabilitation of campsites will be starting this summer. If the campsite is in the process of being restored, removed or repaired – please don't camp there.

Are you going to designate new campsites this year? Not this year, but as soon as design work is completed and signage is installed you may expect to see changes in campsites.



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FAQs/Questions and Answers - (continued)

How do I know where I can legally camp? Currently, dispersed camping is allowed where it has been in the past. In the future, campsites will be designated along certain routes. We encourage camping away from the edges of creeks and encourage camping in existing dispersed sites (please don't create a new site).

Who else uses this area? You can expect to see off-highway vehicles, horses, cows, campers and RV's, logging trucks and pickups pulling horse trailers. You can also expect Air Force survival school traffic and other heavy equipment. This area is also popular with hunters, shed-hunters, fishermen and target shooters.

What is the implementation timeline? This project is expected to be phased in over the next 15 years, with a majority of new routes designated over the next five years. Campsite relocation and rehabilitation will occur over the next five years as well.

How can I get involved? Contact your local Forest Service Ranger Station on how you can help with this project.