



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
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Region

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File Code: 2350-5

Route To:

Date: March 23, 2006

Subject: Forest Orders to Prohibit Cross-Country Wheeled Vehicle Travel

To: Forest Supervisors

This is to clarify the use of Forest Orders in Step 2 of the R5 Route Designation Guidebook (modified February 27, 2005). The purpose of these Forest Orders is to stop resource damage from cross-country travel by prohibiting wheeled vehicles off existing roads and trails. The term "existing" means routes that are visible on the ground that have previously received vehicle use regardless of whether they are on the National Forest Transportation system. Forest Orders issued in Step 2 should not be used to close existing roads and trails.

Road or trail closures should be accomplished with separate Orders. The following are examples:

1) Roads or trails where severe resource damage is resulting from motor vehicle use that would constitute an imminent emergency can be closed consistent with the authority in 36 CFR 212.52 (b)(2):

(2) *Temporary, emergency closures based on a determination of considerable adverse effects.* If the responsible official determines that motor vehicle use on a National Forest System road or National Forest System trail or in an area on National Forest System lands is directly causing or will directly cause considerable adverse effects on public safety or soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, or cultural resources associated with that road, trail, or area, the responsible official shall immediately close that road, trail, or area to motor vehicle use until the official determines that such adverse effects have been mitigated or eliminated and that measures have been implemented to prevent future recurrence.

2) Closure of roads or trails in non-motorized land allocations in your Forest Land and Resource Management Plan or in project level NEPA documents.

Please contact Rich Farrington at (707) 562-88491, if you have any further questions.

/s/ Thomas L. Tidwell (for)
BERNARD WEINGARDT
Regional Forester



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