



Forest  
Service

Washington Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 2300; 2600; 2700; 5300  
Route To: 2600; 7700

Date: APR 17 2015

Subject: Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designations

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs  
and WO Directors

**REPLY DUE MAY 20, 2015**

This letter supersedes the letter dated March 31, 2015, on the same subject.

Winter recreation on national forests and grasslands is increasing, and there is a need to balance the competing interests of various user groups with legal requirements to protect lands and resources managed by the Forest Service. Revised Subpart C, like Subpart B of the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule governing other types of motor vehicle use, provides the framework along with an opportunity to work with our public to determine when and where over-snow vehicle use will occur on national forests and grasslands. When making over-snow vehicle use designations, Forest Service leadership will obtain appropriate public input and coordinate with Federal, State, local, and tribal governments. During that process, the Forest Service also must consider non-motorized recreation users and protection of natural resources, among other factors, consistent with the revised Subpart C.

As Chief Tom Tidwell stated: "The Forest Service always seeks to provide a wide range of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. This policy maintains community input and local decision-making so that those with knowledge of local areas can decide how to best balance natural resource issues with legitimate recreational uses of national forest land."

Currently, we are updating the directives and establishing the process for the creation of an over-snow vehicle use map. We anticipate a learning session in the near future to assist line officers with information needed to facilitate implementation of the revised Subpart C.

To establish a national baseline for over-snow vehicle use designations, each region should coordinate with its administrative units to update and complete the enclosed spreadsheet no later than May 20, 2015. Under the appropriate regional tab, each unit will find its own row where cells needing its attention are color-coded in green. Each unit will need to fill out a maximum of six cells. Please submit your completed spreadsheets to National Off-Highway Vehicle Program Manager, Jamie Schwartz at [jschwartz01@fs.fed.us](mailto:jschwartz01@fs.fed.us). Questions regarding the spreadsheet may be directed to Jamie at (202) 205-1589.

*Mary Beth Borst*  
LESLIE A. C. WELDON  
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

cc: Recreation Directors

