



**Forest Order # 2018-0616-WW-08**  
**Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**  
**Bald Angel Travel Management Restrictions**

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a), and to protect natural resources, the following act is prohibited in the La Grande Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. This Order is effective from April 30 through November 1, 2018.

Using a motor vehicle off designated roads and trails within the Bald Angel Travel Management Closure Area. The boundary of the Bald Angel Travel Management Closure Area is defined on the western and southern edges by the Forest Service boundary with private lands; along the northern and northeastern edges by road 77 to its junction with road 67; and along the eastern edge by road 67 to road 6700350, road 6700350 to road 70, road 70 to road 7035, road 7035 to road 7035076, and road 7035076 to the forest boundary on the southeastern corner of the closure area. All boundary roads are open for motorized travel.

The Bald Angel Travel Management Closure Area is shown on the attached map.

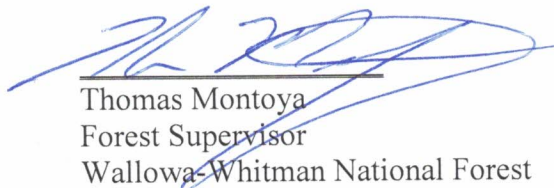
Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing motor vehicle use off designated roads, trails, and areas in the Bald Angel Travel Management Closure Area;
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty;
3. Persons using a motor vehicle off designated roads, trails, and areas in the Bald Angel Travel Management Closure Area for the purpose of dispersed camping and big game retrieval within 300 feet from the centerline of designated roads and trails within the Bald Angel Travel Management Closure Area; and
4. Persons parking motor vehicles off designated roads and trails in the Bald Angel Travel Management Closure Area within one vehicle length from the edge of the road or trail surface when it is safe to do so without causing damage to National Forest System resources or facilities, unless prohibited by state law, a traffic sign, or a Forest Order issued under 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart B.



A violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571.

Executed in Baker City, Oregon, this 9th day of August, 2018.



Thomas Montoya  
Forest Supervisor  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

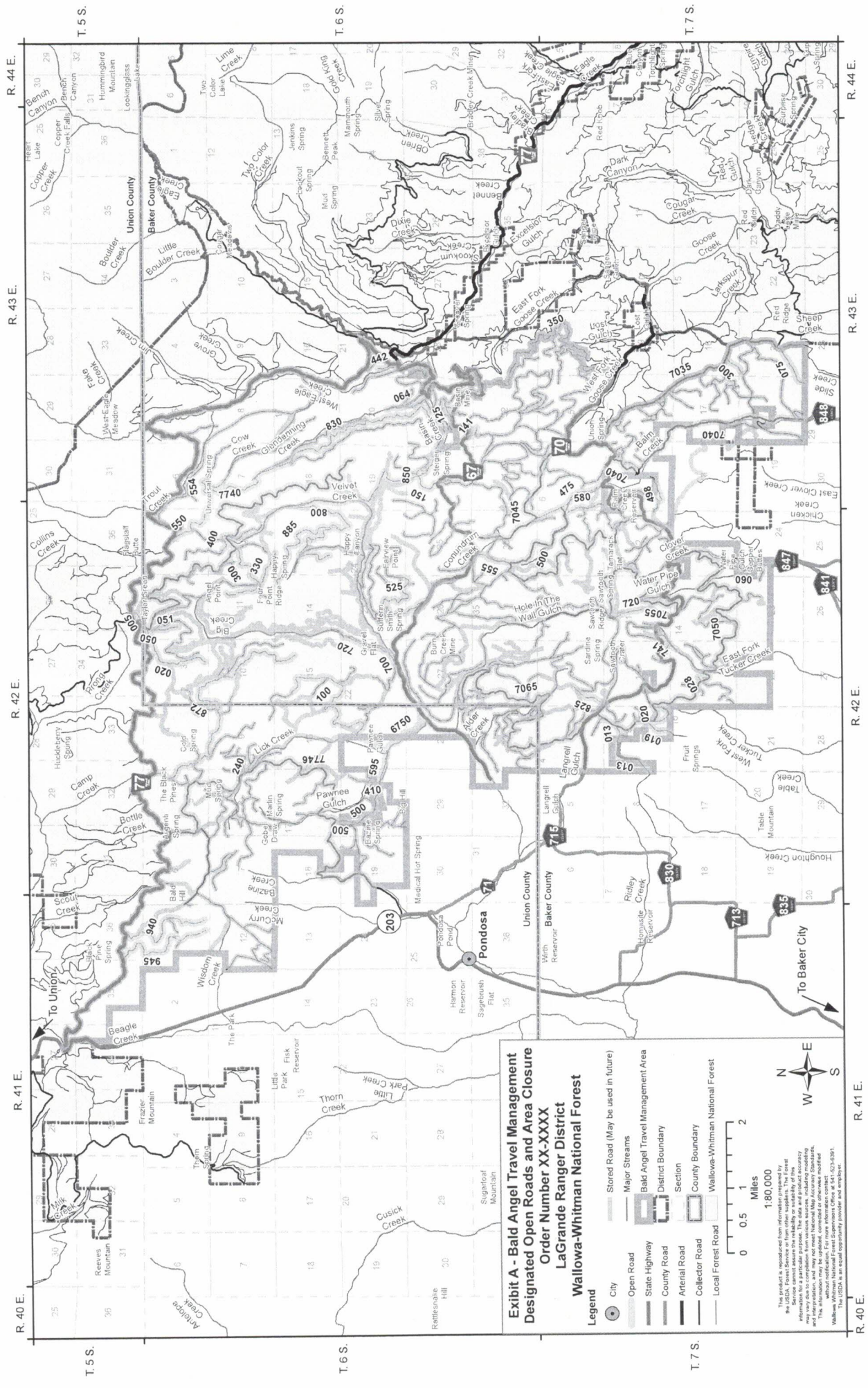
**Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan**

**Prohibition Objective:** The Bald Angel Travel Management Plan is necessary to meet project objectives of reducing the miles of open road within the project area to provide for more big game security habitat and to be consistent with the effects disclosures and decision rationale outlined in the 2007 Bald Angel Environmental Assessment and associated Decision Notice (DN). Implementation of the travel management elements of the DN will move the project area from a current condition of less than 2% of the area providing security habitat for big game and other wildlife species, to an estimated 17% providing security.

**Public Notification Plan:** Copies of the Forest Order will be made available at the District Office and the Forest Service website. The area will be posted to reasonably notify the public using the area. Signs will be maintained on a regular basis, with the Forest Order and map posted on sign boards.

**Enforcement Plan:** Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers (LEO's), in cooperation with District Forest Protection Officers, will enforce the specified CFR Regulation in the Forest Order within the limits of their authority, jurisdiction, and according to Forest Service policy. District employees in the area will notify the District Ranger and local LEO if violations of the order are observed.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Official</u>	<u>Date</u>
Prepare proposed order	Appropriate Staff	1/16/18 BG
OGC Review of Order	OGC	2/12/2018 RH
Review proposed order (Law Enforcement)	Patrol Captain	Per Gamble's email, 8/9/18
Approve proposed order	Forest Supervisor	8/9/18
Post order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51	District Staff Officer and Staff	
Prepare news release for local media describing the order and management objectives	Public Affairs Officer	



**Exhibit A - Bald Angel Travel Management Designated Open Roads and Area Closure Order Number XX-XXXX**  
**LaGrande Ranger District**  
**Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**

- Legend**
- City
  - Open Road
  - State Highway
  - County Road
  - Arterial Road
  - Collector Road
  - Local Forest Road
  - Major Streams
  - Bald Angel Travel Management Area
  - District Boundary
  - Section
  - County Boundary
  - Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
  - Stored Road (May be used in future)

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R. 40 E. R. 41 E. R. 42 E. R. 43 E. R. 44 E.

T. 5 S. T. 6 S. T. 7 S.

## Bald Angel Project Information – April 2018

### Background:

In February 2007, the Forest Supervisor signed the Bald Angel Vegetation Management Project Decision Notice (DN). The project includes:

- Timber harvest on approximately 4,193 acres to reduce stocking densities, remove diseased and poor growing trees, and promote stands with single-story large tree characteristics;
- Fuels reduction activities, including mechanical harvest/removal and prescribed burning, on approximately 13,248 acres;
- Construction of 1.6 miles of permanent roads and 5.36 miles of temporary roads, and reconstruction of 2.26 miles of road;
- Closure of approximately 15.48 miles of roads;
- Decommissioning of approximately 29.11 miles of roads; and
- Establishment of the Bald Angel Travel Management Closure Area.

The final element – establishment of the Bald Angel Travel Management Closure Area – includes the designation of a network of open routes, the identification of a network of closed routes for administrative use and future management, and the establishment of a closure area in which cross country travel is prohibited.

In August 2007, Hells Canyon Preservation Council and Oregon Wild filed a complaint challenging the project, and in December 2007, the parties entered into a settlement agreement. The agreement required the Forest Service to construct temporary, rather than permanent, roads to access 560 acres of awarded timber sale units, complete a joint field review of temporary roads, survey 25% of the late and old structure acreage treated to assess effects, drop treatment of 651 acres of late and old structure stands/units not in an awarded contract and prepare a joint press release related to the settlement agreement.

### Implementation Status

The commercial harvest, pile burning, and pre-commercial thinning approved by the DN have been completed. The prescribed fire and noxious weeds treatment are ongoing.

Between 2007 and 2017, approximately one mile of road was decommissioned, and earthen berms were installed on many of the roads identified for closure that were used for harvest activities. The effectiveness of these closures varies. Many of the earthen berms have been detoured or compromised and are no longer effective.

In June 2017, the La Grande Ranger District started working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to implement additional road decommissioning and closures consistent with the DN. Personnel and equipment from ODFW have re-established earthen berms on closed roads breached by the public, established berms on other roads identified for closure and implemented road decommissioning activities. During 2017, an estimated 17.8 miles of road were decommissioned including subsoil ripping of road surfaces and creating earthen berms at entrances. This decommissioning, along with the 1 mile decommissioned as part of timber sale activities, has resulted in a total estimate of 18.8 miles of **active** decommissioning completed. The remaining approximately 10.3 miles of roads identified for decommissioning were field evaluated and were determined to have effectively grown in with vegetation and are considered passively/naturally decommissioned. In addition, FS personnel have installed informational kiosks for posting information on the travel management area (including information about the closure area).

The Forest has identified a system of open routes and a network of closed routes for administrative and future management but has not yet executed a closure order for the area. Accordingly, cross country travel and associated impacts have continued. The district has received complaints from Forest users in the Bald Angel Travel Management Closure Area about off road travel, the impact of such travel on hunting, and illegal firewood harvesting and associated “wood cutter” roads.