

Closure Order 2018-0616-WW-12
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Whitman Ranger District
Clear Creek and Indian-Gorham Cooperative Travel Management Areas

The Clear Creek and Indian-Gorham Cooperative Travel Management Areas (TMAs) are two portions of the Travel Opportunity Guide map (September 1, 1991). Forest Executive Order #233 Implemented the road and area closures identified on that map. This order amends Forest Executive Order #233 to change the start date of the closure period for the two TMAs.

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 CFR § 261.50(a) and (b), until further notice, the following acts are prohibited from 3 days prior to archery hunting season through the end of the rifle bull elk season within the below listed areas on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Whitman Ranger District.

1. Possessing or using a motorized vehicle off Forest development roads in the Clear Creek and Indian Gorham TMAs, except within 300 feet of each side of the open routes listed below for the purpose of camping (36 CFR § 261.56).
2. Using any motorized vehicle on Forest development roads in the Clear Creek and Indian-Gorham TMAs, except on the routes listed below as open (36 CFR § 261.54(a)).
3. Using any motorized vehicle on Forest development trails within the Clear Creek and Indian-Gorham TMAs (36 CFR § 261.55(b)).
4. Landing of aircraft, or dropping or picking up any materials, supplies, or person by means of an aircraft, including a helicopter within the Clear Creek and Indian-Gorham TMAs (36 CFR § 261.58(y)).
5. Going into or being upon any area which is closed for the protection of scientific experiments or investigations, public health or safety within the Clear Creek and Indian-Gorham TMAs (36 CFR § 261.53(d) & (e)).

CLEAR CREEK TMA is located in T. 5 S., R. 37 E., W.M., Sections 11 through 14, 23 through 26, 35 and 36; T. 5 S., R. 38 E., W.M., Sections 7 through 9, 16 through 21, 28, 29 and 30.

OPEN ROUTES: Road Nos. 43, 4300160, 4305, 4300100, 4315, 4316, portions of 4320 south of 43 and north of 4315 road to gates with ROAD CLOSED sign, portion of 4320030 road to gate with ROAD CLOSED sign, 4320038, 4320040 and 4330.

INDIAN-GORHAM TMA is located in T. 6 S., R. 36 E., W.M., Sections 25 and 36; T. 6 S., R. 37 E., W.M., Sections 13, 14, 20 through 36; T. 7 S., R. 36 E., W.M., Sections 1 and 12; T. 7 S., R. 37 E., W.M., Sections 1 through 12.

OPEN ROUTES: Road Nos. 7302, 7302020, 7312, 7312065, 7320, 7320050, 7300160, 7300161, 7300170, 7300180, 43, 4380, 73.

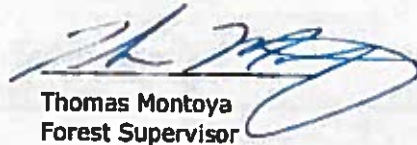
Maps showing these areas, and the open routes, are attached as Exhibit A.

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

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

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 18th day of September 2018.



Thomas Montoya
Forest Supervisor

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan

Prohibition Objective: The revision of the seasonal closure periods for the Clear Creek and Indian-Gorham Butte Cooperative Travel Management Areas is necessary to meet objectives of reducing motorized disturbance and improving big game security habitat during bull elk archery and rifle hunting seasons consistent with the effects disclosures and decision rationale outlined in the 2015 East Face Environmental Assessment and associated Decision Notice (DN) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI). Implementation of these travel management elements of the DN will change the start date of the current seasonal closure period from 3 days prior to the beginning of the bull elk rifle season to 3 days prior to the opening of bull elk archery season.

Public Notification Plan: Copies of the Forest Order and maps will be made available at the District Offices and on the Forest Service website. The areas will be posted at primary travel portals to reasonably notify the public using the areas. Signs will be maintained on a regular basis in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the Forest Order and maps 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 regulations 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.

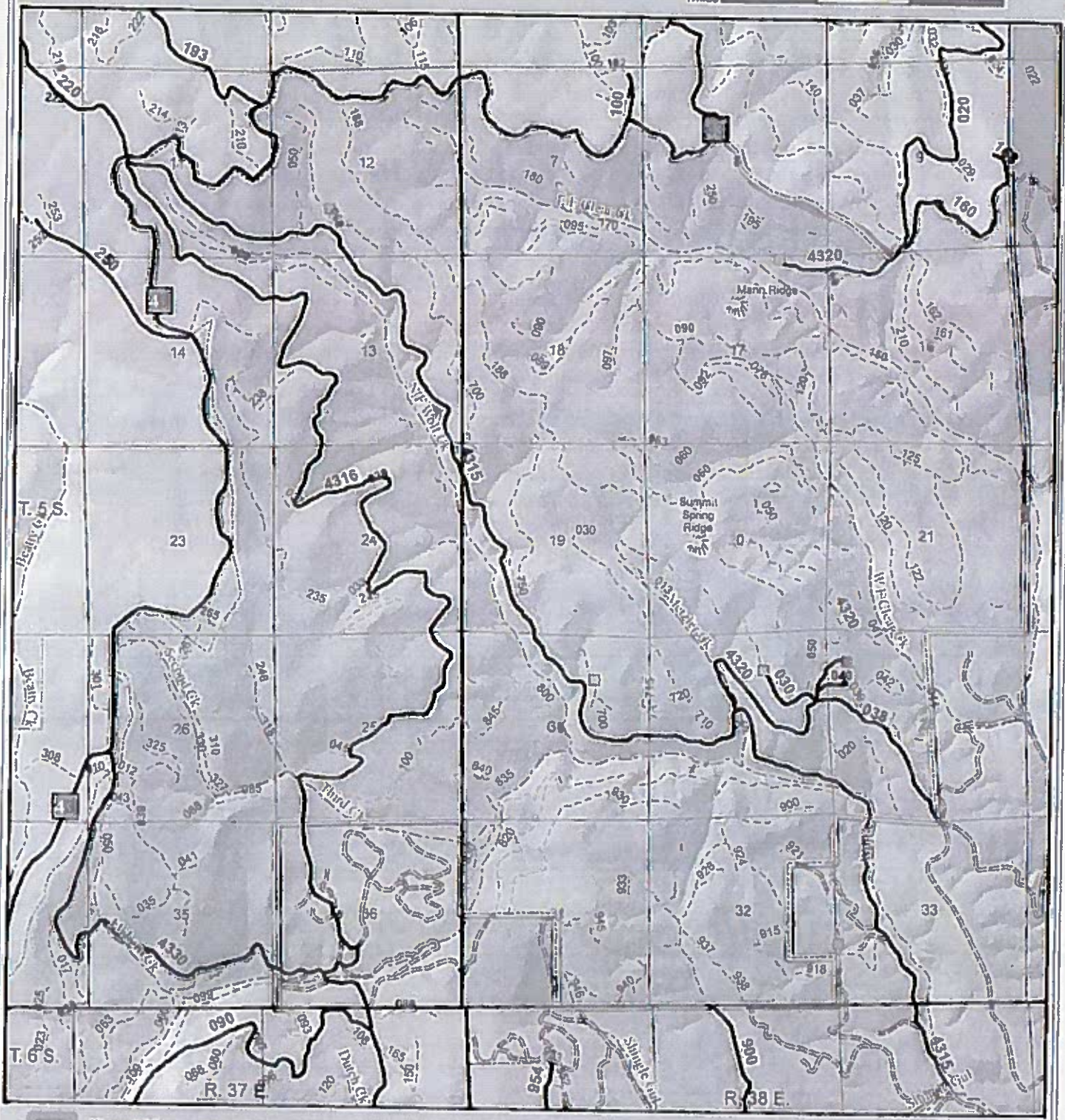
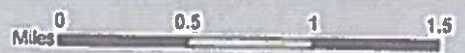
<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Official</u>	<u>Date</u>
Prepare proposed order	Appropriate Staff	7/26/18 BG
OGC Review of Order	OGC	RH 8/14/2018
Review proposed order (Law Enforcement)	Patrol Captain	RWF 09/17/18
Approve proposed order	Forest Supervisor	TM 09/18/18
Post order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51	District Staff Officer and Staff	
Prepare news release for local media describing the order and management objectives	Public Affairs Officer	

WALLOWA WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST

Clear Creek Travel Management Area

Order #

Date: 8/28/2018



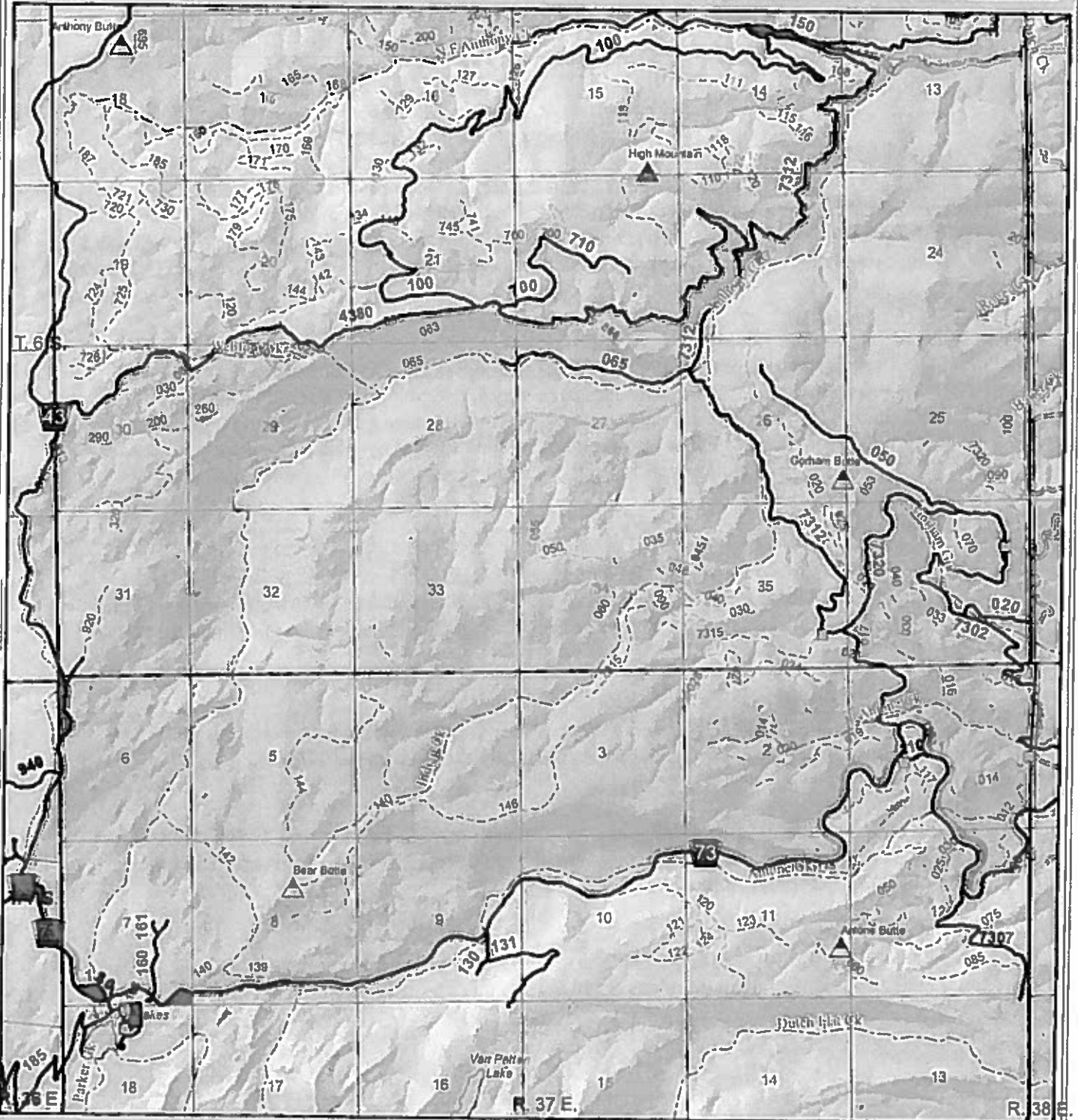
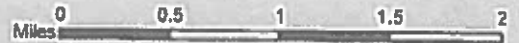
- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Travel Management Area | Open Forest Roads | Major Streams | Bureau of Land Management |
| Closed Forest Roads | Ranger District | Private Land | |
| Off Forest Road | Gates | U.S. Forest Service | |

WALLOWA WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST

Indian Gorham Travel Management Area

Order #

Date: 8/29/2018



Closure Order 2018-0616-WW-12

**CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACTS ANALYSIS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region (R6)
CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACT ANALYSIS
Prohibited Acts: Area Closure
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**

Purpose

The purpose for developing a civil rights impact analysis is to provide the Forest Service decision maker information concerning potential civil rights impacts of the proposed action. Civil rights impacts are those which could affect the agency's ability to ensure equal opportunity in employment and in delivery of programs and services.

Favorable Impacts

The proposed action would:

- Provide for controlled motorized access within two existing cooperative travel management areas to improve big game security. See Forest Order 2018-0616-WW-12 for a list of all prohibited acts that are being incorporated into this closure order. This order would be posted on the ground along with regulatory signs, where applicable.
- Permit motor vehicle access to fire fighting, emergency, and other exempted uses.

Unfavorable Impacts

The proposed action would:

- Prohibit motorized use on the National Forest System lands roads and trails in the Clear Creek and Indian-Gorham Cooperative Travel Management Areas (TMAs), during specified time periods (3 days prior to archery season through rifle bull elk season), as indicated on attached Exhibit A-Maps.

Mitigation Measures


Mitigation would include personal contacts by Forest Service and signage of closure, maps and informational materials at key access points to explain the cooperative TMA.

Social Impacts

The proposed action does not impose any unreasonable adverse impacts on the civil rights of any individuals because the closure categories are of general applicability. The overall benefits are reasonable, as compared to the unfavorable impacts.

Net Civil Rights Impact

No net negative Civil Rights Impacts because the closure categories are general in applicability and will apply equally to all individuals within the area depicted on Exhibit A-Maps.


Thomas Montoya
Forest Supervisor

9/18/18
Date

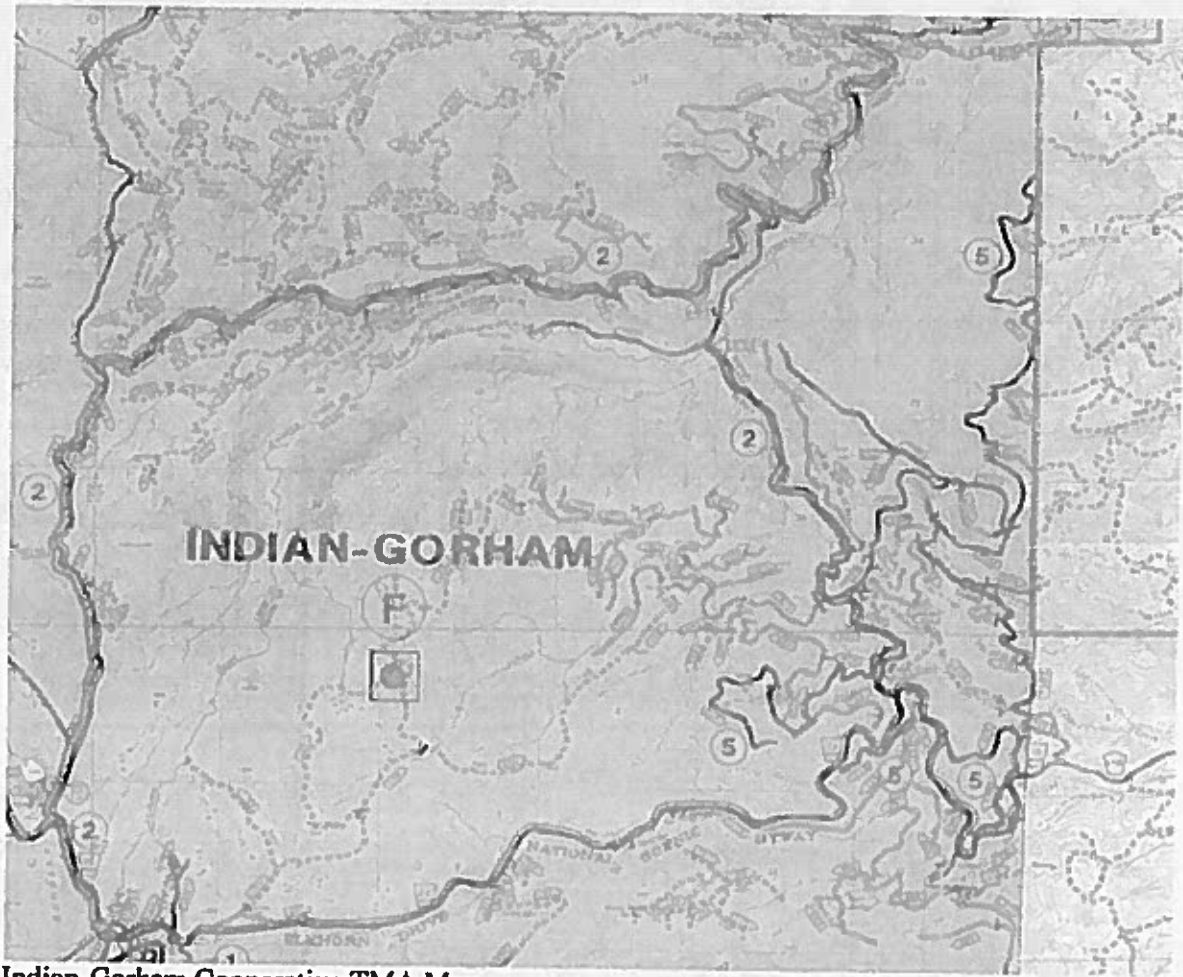
Closure Order 2018-0616-WW-12

Exhibit A – Maps



Clear Creek Cooperative TMA Map

Closure Order 2018-0616-WW-12



Indian-Gorham Cooperative TMA Map



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

La Grande Ranger District
Wallowa-Whitman
National Forest

3502 Highway 30.
La Grande, OR 97850

File Code: 1900/2400
Date: July 1, 2018

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Bill Gamble, La Grande District Ranger
TO: FILE
SUBJECT: Indian-Gorham and Clear Creek Cooperative Travel Management Areas
FILE CODE: 2300/5330

The intent of this memorandum is to describe the need for changing the closure periods for two existing cooperative travel management areas and associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance supporting the change. The starting date for these TMA's is being changed from 3 days prior to the elk rifle season to 3 days prior to elk archery season.

BACKGROUND AND NEED:

As part of the East Face Vegetation Management Project the need for enhanced security and distribution of big game led to the decision to extend the closure periods of two existing cooperative TMA's. The closure periods are being extended to encompass the archery hunting season along with the subsequent rifle hunting seasons in an effort to increase security habitat and help retain elk on National Forest System lands. This change was analyzed, disclosed and decided as part of the decision notice prepared for the East Face project.

SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

The East Face project has been through scoping and comment as part of the NEPA process completed for the East Face Vegetation Management Environmental Assessment. Informational signs and maps will be posted along key roads informing the public on the changed closure period. The decision notice and finding of no significant impact (DN/FONSI) was signed on July 28, 2016 and specifically discloses the need and rationale for the extended closure period to provide for improved security and distribution of big game (namely elk).

Based on the above, I recommend implementation of the area closure consistent with 36 CFR, Secs. 261.50 and 261.53.

Bill Gamble
District Ranger
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest



