

NEWS



Forest Service

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Lassen National Forest

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Lassen NF Looking at Reduced OHV Funding, Meeting Scheduled

The Lassen National Forest will be hosting a public meeting to discuss the Lassen National Forest's summer and winter off-highway vehicle travel programs for 2003-2004. The meeting will be held on September 29th, 2003 at the Almanor Ranger Station in Chester, 900 East Highway 36, starting at 6 PM. The Almanor Ranger Station is located 2 miles east of the intersection of State Highways 36 and 89 in Chester.

Funding levels for these travel programs will be substantially reduced in 2003-2004 according to preliminary figures from the California Department of Parks and Recreation. "Right now, the State proposes to fund about one-third of our program needs," stated Elizabeth Norton, Public Services Director for the Lassen National Forest.

A final decision on the funding level will be made on October 3rd at a hearing before the Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission in Folsom. "We need to hear from our OHV and OSV users about the programs and services that are important to them before we attend the Commission hearing," said Norton. "Their recommendations could influence the Commission to increase their support for the Lassen's programs."

The Lassen National Forest hosts the largest over-snow travel program in California with approximately 477 miles of groomed trails throughout the forest. The winter OSV program consists of six staging and parking areas located at: Fredonyer, Bogard, Ashpan, Swain Mountain, Morgan Summit, and Jonesville. The Forest also has two designated four-wheel drive areas at the High Lakes and Front Country on the Almanor Ranger District. Gas taxes and off-highway vehicle registration fees provide most of the funds for these facilities.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Norton, Public Services Director, at (530) 252-6645.

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