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Taneum-Manastash road closure decisions 8/1/11

There has been much confusion lately about what the Forest Service really does have closed in the Taneum/Manastash area, as a result of the May 15 flood and why. This past Monday, District Ranger Judy Hallisey made a decision that certain segments of road would remain closed due to concerns over public safety and resource damage until they can be fixed, which we are hoping to get money for in 2012. Listed below are the details of that decision.

Road 3330 (Gnat Flat road): As you can see from the picture, there is a crack in this road where a large area of fill has settled several inches. The concern is that this fill is now unstable, and could fail entirely under the weight of a large heavy vehicle.



This road will be closed from the junction with the main Taneum Road 3300 up to a point just below Gooseberry Flat to provide for public safety. These closures will be by gates to allow a private landowner - Plum Creek timber Company- access to their lands.

Road 3120 (Coal Bunker road). Approximately mid-way between the two ends of this road, a fill has washed out above a culvert, resulting in about a 4-foot deep canyon that is impassable to vehicles.



This road will be closed either side of this site for public safety. Barricades will be erected since this washout is hard to see until you're right on top of it.

3111-115 (Walter springs). A large portion of fill has failed and sloughed away right at the Forest Boundary, making this road very narrow and dangerous for vehicles.



This road will be closed for a distance of approximately 200 feet either side of this fill failure.

3100 (Manastash) – lower portion. Manastash Creek changed course at the site of the former Manastash Sno-Park, leaving an area of river rock where the road used to be. The road was gated at this site shortly after the flood. Plus, the County has closed this road down in the Kittitas Valley (their jurisdiction) at the junction with Cove road, meaning the general public has to violate a County closure just to get to the Forest Service gate. The County has asked the Forest Service not to encourage people to violate their closure.



This road will remain closed from this location up to the junction with Barber Springs road (about 1 mile). Access will be permitted from Barber Springs road up to Buck Meadows.

3100 (Manastash) at Buck Meadow: This road washed out where it crosses Manastash Creek and is completely impassable to vehicles.



It will be closed for a distance of about 200 feet either side of this washout for public safety. Barricades will be erected to keep people who may be driving too fast from falling into the washout.

3100 (Manastash) upper portion: Above road 3120, there are several spots where water overflows have created channels across the road. The problem here is that when it rains, sediment will wash down these channels and eventually into Manastash creek itself.



The concern is that vehicles driving on this road will make this situation worse, so this portion of the road from the 3120 junction up to Quartz Mountain will be closed for resource protection reasons.

So, to summarize:

Road closures:

- 3330 from the bottom up to Gooseberry Flat. (2 miles)
- 3100 from Manastash Sno-Park to Barber Springs Rd. (1 mile)
- 3100 from 3120 junction to Quartz Mountain. (6 miles)

Spot closures (500 feet or less):

- 3111-115 at Forest boundary
- 3100 at crossing of Manastash Creek
- 3120 at washout approximately mile point 2.0

Legal access:

- All trails, including 4x4 trails, are open for their normal use.
- The 4W311 puncheon and bridge which crosses Manastash Creek and Buck Meadow is undamaged and open to vehicles, but is narrow and only recommended for short-wheel-base 4x4's.
- You can legally access the National Forest via Tamarack Springs (from Joe Watt Canyon and Hutchins Road on Washington Department of wildlife land).
- You can legally access the National Forest via Barber Springs road.
- Any road not listed which is normally open is open.
- All roads, trails, and land areas are open for non-motorized travel