

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) WAC 197-11-350 Threshold Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS)

Project Name: Wheeled All Terrain Vehicles-designated open roads

Proponent(s): Okanogan County Public Works
2nd Ave
Okanogan, WA 98840

Agent(s): Josh Thomsen
County Engineer
Okanogan, WA 98840

Project Summary

The proposal/project is an ordinance which if adopted as proposed would open approximately 90.951 miles of county roads located primarily in Commissioner District 1 and part of District 2 with a speed limit of 35 mph or less to use by wheeled all-terrain-vehicles (WATV). There are approximately 150.470 miles of road eligible to be opened to WATV use in the project area that were removed from the proposal due to environmental and resource concerns caused by the possibility of illegal ridership. The county currently manages a road system of 1337.662 miles
(See attached maps)

Location

Primarily County Commissioner District 1

Threshold Determination

- ☐ **DNS:** Okanogan County Planning & Development issued a Threshold Determination of Non-Significance in accordance with WAC 197-11-340, identifying the proposal would not have a probable, significant, and adverse environmental impact.
- ☒ **MDNS:** Okanogan County Planning & Development issued a Threshold Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance in accordance with WAC 197-11-350, identifying this proposal would not have a probable, significant, and adverse environmental impact if mitigation measures are imposed.
- ☐ **DS:** Okanogan County Office of Planning & Development made a Threshold Determination of Significance in accordance with WAC 197-11-360, identifying this proposal would have a probable, significant, and adverse environmental impact.

Comments must be submitted in writing to the Okanogan County Office of Planning & Development, 123 5th Ave N Ste. 130, Okanogan, WA 98840, no later than December 28, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. The date of publication in Okanogan County's legal periodical of record is December 12 and 13, 2018.

Administrative Approval

Lead Agency: Okanogan County
Responsible Official: Perry Huston
Position/Title: Director of Planning
Phone: (509) 422-7160
Address: 123 5th Avenue North, Suite 130
Okanogan, Washington 98840

Signature:



(Perry Huston, Director)

12-7-18

Date

Proposed Mitigation Measure – Threshold MDNS

Project Name: Wheeled All Terrain Vehicles-designated open roads

Review of the proposal indicates that there may be potential for significant adverse environmental impacts. The impacts may be mitigated by conditioning the proposal. Mitigation measures are intended to address and mitigate the environmental impacts to a point of non-significance.

Probable Significant Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

1. Critical Areas

Only certain existing county roads with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less are proposed for opening to use by WATV's. Damage to critical areas such as wetlands, sensitive plant species, or highly erodible areas can occur if riders leave the roadway and illegally operate their WATV's in such a manner that damage to critical areas occurs. To minimize the possibility of damage caused by illegal ridership the following conditions must be met:

- a) Riders must be informed which roadways are opened to WATV use. This will be accomplished through a combination of website information, outreach to and by rider groups, and signage which informs the motoring public that only certain roadways are open to use by WATV's and that WATV riders must remain on the traveled portion of the roadway.
- b) In addition to the signage discussed above additional signs will be erected in areas adjacent to critical areas where the roadway and surrounding topography results in a high likelihood that those riders operating their vehicles illegally will leave the traveled portion of the roadway. The signs will inform riders that it is illegal to leave the traveled portion of the roadway and that fines are doubled in areas identified as sensitive areas.
- c) Maps of roadways open to WATV use will be maintained on the Okanogan County Public Works website.

2. The Okanogan Board of County Commissioners will consult with the WDFW, DNR, and USFS prior to public review of the proposed ordinance to gather information regarding enforcement concerns the agencies may have.

3. Annual review

The Board of County Commissioners will invite the resource agencies and local law enforcement to provide feedback regarding the impacts to critical areas, service delivery, and other issues regarding WATV use by March of each year.