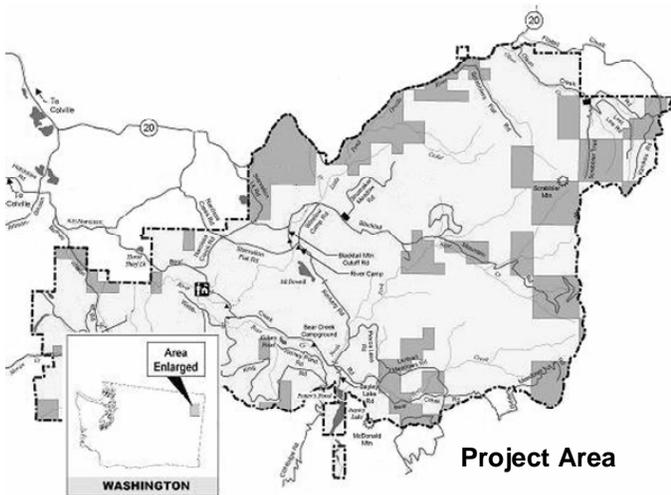


**PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY of
De minimis SECTION 4(f) DETERMINATION**
for
Refuge Road Improvements
Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge
Stevens County, Washington

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD), in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) plans to perform several transportation facility improvements within the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, located 13 miles southeast of Colville. Work is planned for multiple phases, with the first phase occurring between spring 2007 and fall 2008.

Improvements are needed to provide continued safe, convenient access for commercial, recreational, and maintenance traffic using Refuge roads. The routes have uneven surfaces and are single-lane, with long stretches with no formal turnouts. Proposed work includes rehabilitating approximately 13 miles of gravel roads, improving informal turnouts, rehabilitating the River Camp bridge, improving parking areas, repairing culverts, and drainage maintenance.



Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended, allows approval of a transportation project that uses publicly owned land in a wildlife refuge if there is no feasible alternative and the project includes planning to minimize impacts. Projects with minimal impacts may be determined *de minimis* without analyzing alternatives. Due to planning efforts to

minimize impacts, less than one acre total of undeveloped Refuge land will be developed to improve existing transportation facilities.

The *de minimis* Section 4(f) determination is available for review at the Stevens County Commissioners' office and on the project website at <http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/lipe>. Comments may be directed to Ms. Cody Jones at (360) 619-7700, by email to Cody.Jones@fhwa.dot.gov, or in writing to the address below by January 31, 2007.

Federal Highway Administration
610 East Fifth Street
Vancouver, Washington 98661-3801