

Pierre Lake Area

Churchill Mine Road (Map pages 21 and 35). This gravel, primitive road leads on to the west inside the forest boundaries to eventually hook up with Sand Creek Road and Pierre Lake Road, a T intersection. This road is 5.5 miles in length and several other forest service roads are accessible from Churchill Mine Road. This region of the forest is characterized with grazing permits much of the year. Be aware of cattle grazing, and do not harass the livestock. The permit holders are extremely conscious of the welfare of their cattle, and will not tolerate harassment. If any complaints are made, the road will be closed to access during grazing season. Less than 2 vehicles per hour impact.

Limestone Road (Map page 21). This short 2 mile road leads further into the interior of the forest, connecting with other forest service roads. It has less than 2 vehicles per hour expected.

Pierre Lake Road (Map pages 20 and 21). This short section of paved, county road is open from the Orient Cutoff Road northward to the T intersection of Sand Creek and Churchill Mine Road. Caution should be exercised in the vicinity of Pierre Lake, as it is a popular camping area operated by the USFS. Traffic congestion is extremely heavy during holiday weekends. This area is a high hazard zone during these periods. Recommend avoiding the area at these times.

Orient Cutoff Road (Map pages 6 and 20). This road is a short road, half the length is paved, the remaining half is gravel. Of interest is it leads to an intersection with the First Thought Mountain Rd. The Orient Cutoff Road can expect up to 10 vehicles per hour, decreasing to less than 5 per hour as it continues easterly towards the Pierre Lake Road, a paved highway.

Rock Cut Road (Map pages 6 and 7). This is a gravel, county road that is a direct connection from services to the national forest OHV travel management areas. Less than 8 vehicles per hour are expected on this segment leading to Orient. The Kettle River bisects this region, and recreationists must be cautious for the bridge leading into Orient. Yield to traffic crossing, always obeying the rules of road, and staying in single file on any of the public roads being authorized for transitory travel from service areas to the outback.

Sand Creek Road (Map pages 7 and 21). This 3¾ mile long road is a connector to the Rock Cut Road which leads to services in Orient, where fuel and food may be obtained. This is a gravel county road with less than 4 vehicles per hour expected.

First Thought Mountain Road (Map page 20). This road leads to a historical area rich in the mining history of Stevens County. This region should be explored for possible heritage implementation for viewing by the OHV explorers. The First Thought Mountain is a rich, hard rock mining site, noted for the copper found there. Its overview of the Kettle River area should be explored for possible routing for a view site. It is a primitive road, about 1.5 miles in length.