

## USDA Forest Service Update September 2008



### **SUBJECT: Access Issue - Proposals for Improved Recreational Access on National Forest Lands Data Request**

The Shooting Sports Round table partners are very interested in helping us expeditiously address recreational access issues on public lands. To do this strategically, an inventory of our access needs was required. In April 2008, we invited each Forest Service (FS) Region to nominate up to 3 of their best opportunities for improving access in their region.

Although the number of projects that could be presented by each FS region was limited, over 25 proposals were submitted for consideration. The Bureau of Land management conducted a parallel survey. Some of the proposals include both FS and BLM lands.

The projects are currently being reviewed by Shooting Sports Round table partners and federal employees. A subset of the proposals deemed to have national significance was presented to the AWCP in August.

The Round Table will act as the “clearing house” for expediting the resolution of some of our high priority access areas.

The type of resolution depends on local circumstances; in some cases resolution may involve land easements and acquisitions, land exchanges, or road maintenance, construction, or improvements.

This project is consistent with the implementation of the Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports Roundtable MOU, and the Hunting Heritage Executive Order.

Access has been a long-time issue with many of our partners and their assistance in this endeavor is critical for success.

**Contact: Gene DeGayner, National Wildlife Program Leader, [edegayner@fs.fed.us](mailto:edegayner@fs.fed.us) 202-205-1281.**