
Gallatin National Forest News Release



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Contact: Marna Daley, 406-587-6703
Bob Dennee, 406-587-6914

Gallatin National Forest Releases Travel Plan Decision and Final EIS

The Forest Service released the Travel Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the Gallatin National Forest today. Since 2002, the Forest has engaged the public in a Forest-wide travel management planning process, to identify and establish future road, trail and dispersed recreation opportunities.

In February 2005, the Forest presented the Draft EIS for the Travel Plan. Over 10,000 comments were received on the Draft EIS. Also during the past two years, the Forest Service met with over 170 groups and individuals to discuss their concerns and listen to their suggestions. The Record of Decision is the culmination of this planning effort.

“The Decision is well crafted and incorporates public comment received throughout the entire process,” said Becki Heath, Gallatin Forest Supervisor. “The Decision meets legal requirements, addresses highly important wildlife objectives, and provides well-distributed recreation opportunities across the Forest, including challenge motorized opportunities and increased quiet user opportunities.”

Although the Decision and Final EIS are complete, all the work is not done yet. As one part of the Decision, the Forest will manage summer use of 9 popular trails near Bozeman under

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10 East Babcock Ave., PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

Page 2 – Gallatin National Forest Releases Travel Management Plan ROD and Final EIS

a “time-share” plan. The Forest will be asking individuals and user groups to help design the timeshare concept for these trails. If you are interested, please contact the Gallatin National Forest at 406-587-6701.

In the next few months the Forest will also be finalizing the implementation strategy which includes signing, trail improvement needs, and education and enforcement efforts. Implementation could begin as soon as April 2007.

The ROD, Final EIS, and accompanying maps are available electronically at www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin. Individuals and groups that participated in the travel planning process will receive a letter from the Gallatin Forest Supervisor announcing the decision, explaining the rationale, and advising people where to obtain additional information. People who signed up for a hard copy or a CD should start receiving them today. If you would like a hard copy or CD please contact the Gallatin Forest Supervisor’s office or any of the Ranger District offices. Copies are also available at local libraries.

For additional information please contact the Gallatin National Forest at (406) 587-6701.

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