

Gallatin National Forest Travel Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement Summary

Table of Contents

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Background.....	2
General Location and Geographic Setting.....	3
Proposed Action.....	3
Establishment of Forest-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards and Guidelines for Travel Management.....	3
Establishment of Travel Planning Area Goals, Objectives, Standards and Guidelines for Travel Management.....	4
Designation of the Modes of Travel Permissible and Managed for in Specific Areas and on Specific Roads and Trails of the Gallatin National Forest.....	4
Motorized Use.....	5
Passenger Car Travel.....	5
4 x 4 High-Clearance Vehicle Travel.....	5
ATV Travel.....	5
Motorcycle Travel.....	5
Mountain Bike Riding.....	5
Horseback Riding.....	7
Hiking.....	7
Snowmobiling.....	7
Cross-country skiing.....	7
Small Aircraft Landing Strips.....	7
Table 1 Desired general locations of backcountry airstrips.....	7
Adoption of Programmatic Direction for “Access”.....	8
Amendment to Remove Specific Management Direction from the Existing Gallatin National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.....	8
Development of a Monitoring Plan Associated With Travel Management.....	8
Need and Purpose.....	9
Need for a Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan.....	9
Purpose for a Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan.....	9
Decisions To Be Made.....	9
The Scoping Process.....	10
The Draft EIS Comment Period.....	10
Significant Issues.....	10
Significant Issues.....	10
1. Bald Eagle.....	11
2. Big Game (Ungulates).....	11
3. Biological Diversity and Ecological Sustainability.....	11
4. Cultural Resources.....	11
5. Social and Economic Impacts.....	12
6. Enforcement.....	12
7. Fisheries and Aquatic Life.....	12
8. Forest Plan Amendments to Remove Existing Standards related to Travel Management.....	12
9. General Wildlife.....	13
10. Grizzly Bear.....	13
11. Transportation System Implementability.....	13
12. Invasive Weeds.....	13

13. Lynx.....	13
14. Migratory Birds.....	13
15. Noise.....	14
16. Recreation.....	14
17. Riparian Areas.....	14
18. Roadless Areas.....	14
19. Soils.....	15
20. Watershed Management (Water Quality).....	15
21. Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, and recommended Wilderness.....	15
22. Wolverine.....	16
23. Wolves.....	16
Other Issues.....	16
SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES STUDIED IN DETAIL.....	16
Guiding Themes.....	17
Alternative 1 – No Action.....	17
Alternative 2.....	17
Alternative 3.....	18
Alternative 4.....	18
Alternative 5.....	19
Alternative 6.....	19
Alternative 7-Modified.....	19
COMPARISON OF OPPORTUNITIES BY ALTERNATIVE	20
Table 2. Summary of Summer Opportunities By Miles.....	21
Table 3. Summary of Winter Opportunities In Miles.....	22
Table 4. Summary of Area Restrictions - Acres.....	22
Table 5. Forest-Wide Summary of Facilities By Miles.....	23
COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES STUDIED IN DETAIL BY SIGNIFICANT ISSUE.....	24
Table 6. Summary Comparison of Alternatives Forest-wide By Significant Issue.....	24