



File Code: 1950/2350

Date: December 12, 2006

Greetings:

The Dixie National Forest is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to establish a system of designated roads, trails and areas for motorized vehicle use, thereby developing a Motorized Travel Plan. A Motorized Travel Plan is needed to improve the management and enforcement of motor vehicle use on National Forest System lands. The Motorized Travel Plan shall also be in accordance with new travel management policy: *Travel Management; Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use; Final Rule*, announced November 2, 2005.

As directed under the National Environmental Policy Act (1969), the Forest Service is now seeking comments from individuals, organizations, local and state governments, and other federal agencies that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. Comments may pertain to the nature and scope of the environmental, social, and economic issues, and possible alternatives related to the development of the travel management plan and EIS. Comments will help the Forest Service assess the proposed action, develop alternatives and prepare a draft environmental impact statement.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The Dixie National Forest is providing a 48-day comment period, commencing on the date that legal notice is published in the Federal Register, approximately **December 15, 2006**. Written comments to be considered in the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) should be submitted by **January 31, 2007**.

Please send your written comments to: Noelle Meier, Dixie National Forest Motorized Travel Plan Team Leader, 1789 N. Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84720; FAX: (435) 865-3791. You may also hand-deliver your comments to the above address during normal business hours from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Oral comments may be provided during normal business hours via telephone 435-865-3700, in person at one of the district offices listed below, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. Electronic comments may be submitted to comments_dixie_motorized_travel_plan@fs.fed.us in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc). If the Forest Service does not hear from you, your name will be removed from future mailing lists for this project.

Interactive electronic maps and route data and other information about the project are available on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/projects/MTP/index.shtml>.



To assist those who prefer or require hard copy maps, a Forest-wide set of large paper maps will be located for public viewing at the following Ranger District offices:

Pine Valley Ranger District, 196 E. Tabernacle, Suite 40, St. George, UT 84770;
Phone: (435) 652-3100.

Cedar City Ranger District, 1789 Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, UT 84720;
Phone: (435) 865-3200; TTY for the hearing impaired: (435) 865-3719.

Powell Ranger District, 225 East Center Street, Panguitch, UT 84759-0080;
Phone (435) 676-9300.

Escalante Ranger District, 755 West Main, Escalante, UT 84726-0246;
Phone: (435) 826-5400.

Fremont River Ranger District, 138 South Main, Loa, UT, 84747; Phone: (435) 836-2800.

For the convenience of interested people living in Kane County, maps will also be located at the **North Kaibab Ranger District**, 430 South Main Street, Fredonia, AZ, 86022;
Phone: (928)-643-7395.

A series of public open houses are also scheduled to explain the proposed travel plan and route designation process and to provide an opportunity for public input. Six scoping meetings are planned.

January 9, 2007 (Tuesday):

Ramada Inn, 1440 East St. George Blvd. St. George, UT, 12:00 to 8:00 pm

January 10, 2007 (Wednesday):

Hunter Conference Center, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT, 12:00 to 8:00 pm

January 11, 2007 (Thursday):

City Library and Offices, 25 South 200 East, Panguitch, UT, 12:00 to 8:00 pm

January 18, 2007 (Thursday):

Salt Lake City Library, Level 4 Meeting Room, 210 East 400 South, Salt Lake City, UT, 12:00 to 8:00 pm

January 24, 2007 (Wednesday):

Wonderland Inn, Utah State Highways 12 and 24, Torrey, UT 12:00 to 8:00 pm
(Please note that this is a change from the date stated in the Notice of Intent).

January 25, 2007 (Thursday):

Escalante Interagency Visitor Center, Escalante, UT 12:00 to 8:00 pm.
(Please note that this is a change from the date and location announced in the Notice of Intent).

Times, dates and locations will also be posted through local public notice and on the project webpage at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/projects/MTP/index.shtml>. Written comments will be accepted at these meetings.

We urge you to stay involved as we work through this important process. If you have questions, please call Noelle Meier at (435) 865-3700.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kevin R. Schulkoski
KEVIN R. SCHULKOSKI
Acting Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Charles K Call
Noelle Meier
Keith D Harris