

NEWS RELEASE

Lolo National Forest

United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service Lolo National Forest Building 24, Fort Missoula Missoula, Montana 59804

Contact: Boyd Hartwig 406 329-1024

www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo

For Immediate Release

Date: January 9, 2009

Ninemile District to Host Meeting on Resource Issues

Missoula, MT. – The Ninemile Ranger District will be holding a public meeting to solicit citizen input concerning the future management of the Lolo National Forest from Mill Creek west to Houle Creek. The meeting will be held Wednesday, January 21 at 7 p.m. at the Frenchtown Rural Fire Department's Station 1 building in Frenchtown.

According to Ninemile District officials, over the last several years there have been increased resource problems related to illegal off-road vehicle use, vandalism, trash dumping, and other abuse of National Forest lands between Mill and Houle Creek. Local residents have expressed growing concern to District officials and recreation specialists about these problems and the need for the Forest Service to adequately control or manage them.

The meeting is intended to solicit options for the future management of this area. Based upon the input and comments received at the meeting, the Ninemile Ranger District will develop a proposed course of action and initiate a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis to assess the environmental effects of the proposal.

"From the public input received at the meeting it is our desire to develop a proposed course of action to better manage this portion of the National Forest experiencing these resource and social problems," said Ninemile District Ranger Gary Edson.

For more information please contact Erika Karuzas at the Ninemile Ranger District, (406) 626-5401.