

Notice of 30-Day Opportunity to Comment
USDA Forest Service, Sawtooth National Forest
Fairfield and Minidoka Ranger Districts
Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Oneida, Power, Twin Falls - State of Idaho
Box Elder – State of Utah

Travel Plan Revision –Sawtooth Forest

The Sawtooth National Forest is preparing an Environmental Assessment to revise the current summer Sawtooth National Forest Visitor/Travel Plan (Travel Plan) to restrict motor vehicle use to designated roads and trails. This proposal was in part, generated in response to the *Travel Management; Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use; Final Rule* published November 9, 2005. This national final rule requires the Forest Service, with input from the public, to prepare a Motor Vehicle Use Map designating those roads, trails and areas that will be open to motorized travel.

The project area to be analyzed includes areas on the Sawtooth Travel Plan shown as G and H Areas on the Fairfield Ranger District, portions of Area A in and around Kelly Creek Flats, section 7, T3N, R13E and sec. 12, 13,14 T3N, R12E and areas shown as K, L and Q on the Cassia Division, the Albion Division, the Black Pine Division, the Raft River Division, and the Sublett Division of the Minidoka Ranger District.

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. There are two Responsible Officials associated with this Proposed Action: Scott Nannenga – Responsible Official for the Minidoka Ranger District, and Mike Dettori – Responsible Official for the Fairfield Ranger District.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Times-News newspaper. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted by mail to: Travel Plan Revision - Responsible Official; Sawtooth Forest Supervisor's Office; 2647 Kimberly Road East, Twin Falls 83301; FAX (208) 737-3236; or you may hand-deliver your comments to three locations during normal business hours from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays: the Sawtooth Forest Supervisor's Office at the address above, the Fairfield Ranger Station, located at 102 1st Street East, Fairfield, or the Minidoka Ranger Station located at 3650 South Overland Ave., Burley.

Oral comments may be provided at either Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone: Mike Dettori, Fairfield District Ranger - phone (208) 634-3202; or Scott Nannenga, Minidoka District Ranger – phone (208) 678-0430; or in

person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to: comments-intermtn-sawtooth@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. A scanned signature can be used for verification.

Appeal Eligibility

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Those who provide comments during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision under the regulations. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must provide the following information:

1. Name and Address;
2. Title of the proposed action;
3. Specific facts or comments on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision;
4. Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comments(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility;
5. For multiple names or multiple organizations, a signature must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each organization, or for each individual that wishes to have appeal eligibility, and
6. Individual members of organizations must submit their own comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility as an individual, comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

Additional information on the proposed action may be obtained from Kim Pierson – Travel Plan Revision Team Leader, Sawtooth Forest Supervisor’s Office; 2647 Kimberly Road East, Twin Falls, by phone at (208) 737-3200, or by visiting the World Wide Web at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth/projects/>

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