



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Sawtooth National Forest
Supervisor's Office

2647 Kimberly Rd. E.
Twin Falls, ID. 83301
208-737-3200
Fax: 208-737-3236

File Code: 1950/2350/7710

Date: November 2, 2007

Dear Member of the Public:

I am writing to update you on the Route Designation (Travel Management) Project on the Sawtooth National Forest. We have prepared a 300 plus page Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project which is available on our website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth/projects/>. Paper copies are available for review at the Ketchum, Minidoka, and Fairfield Ranger District Offices, and the Sawtooth National Forest Supervisors Office. CD's are also available at these locations. A 45 page Executive Summary of the EA is also available online at our website (see above) or a hard copy of the summary is available upon request.

It is important to note that this is a review period only. This additional courtesy review is **not** to be confused with the formal 30-day notice and comment period which has already occurred. If you did not offer comments during the formal 30-day notice and comment period (October 4 – November 4, 2006) you will not be able to establish standing for administrative appeal, by commenting at this time. Regardless of your appeal standing and to ensure that we have not overlooked issues that you think the District Rangers should consider before they make their decisions, we are still interested in any comments you may have.

If you have previously submitted comments and have no new concerns or issues as you review the EA, you do **not** need to resubmit your original comments.

Submit written comments for review of the EA to:

Sawtooth National Forest
Attn: Route Designation (Travel Management)
2647 Kimberly Road East
Twin Falls, ID 83301-7976

You may also submit comments via e-mail to: comments-intermtn-sawtooth@fs.fed.us

Comments need to be received by November 30, 2007.

It is anticipated that each District Ranger (Ketchum, Fairfield, and Minidoka) will release his decision for their District in February, 2008. We are now providing the public with an additional 29-day opportunity to review the EA prior to the final decisions.

Because the Route Designation (Travel Management) analysis has been on-going for a few years, I think it important to summarize the process and where we are today. We began by involving the public in developing the initial motorized route concepts in September of 2004. The proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment during scoping July 1



through September 30, 2006 and has been listed in the Sawtooth Schedule of Proposed Actions since October 1, 2006. Extensive public involvement has occurred throughout the process and this is reflected by the 300 plus comments that have been received. The formal 30-day notice and comment period was initiated on October 4, 2006, and continued through November 4, 2006. By commenting during this formal 30-day period, Members of the public were able to establish standing for administrative appeal. We are now in the final stages of the analysis process. As we near completion of the Route Designation EA, we are providing it to the public for a 29-day review prior to a decision.

Our District Rangers, the interdisciplinary team and other agency representatives have been very involved with user and interest groups as well as other agencies for the past four years. Much of what was analyzed here reflects what we have heard and received from the public during the planning efforts. We believe that the considerable public involvement has greatly improved our analysis and I want to thank each of you for having been involved.

Please note in your review that due to differences in specialist's approaches to analyses numbers associated with road density and miles of routes may vary slightly by resource. In the Final EA, we will strive to make these numbers consistent.

Additionally, please note that on the Minidoka Ranger District, the FS Flats/FS Springs area now has designated routes and will be closed to cross-country travel as part of the proposed action. This change is displayed on the action alternative maps for the Cassia Division which are available online: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth/projects/> or for review at the District Offices.

In February 2008, the Decision and the final EA will be sent to you in the format you had previously requested (either a CD Rom or paper copy).

Sincerely,

/s/ Jane P. Kollmeyer
JANE P. KOLLMEYER
Forest Supervisor