



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Spotted Bear
Ranger District
(406) 758-5376 summer
(406) 387-3800 winter

10 Hungry Horse Drive
P.O. Box 190340
Hungry Horse, MT 59919

File Code: 1950

Date: April 4, 2008

The Bruce Creek to Alpine 7 to Napa Point Motorized Trails Project Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed and is out for public review.

In April 2007, we sent a letter to interested individuals and organizations providing information about a proposal to close 20 miles of trail to motorcycle use. The project area is located on the Swan Lake and Spotted Bear Ranger Districts in the Swan Crest area south of the Jewel Basin Hiking Area and north of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. We received comments and feedback on the initial proposal from approximately 160 people through letters, phone calls, visits, and emails.

Since the comment period, a planning team comprised of specialists from several natural resource disciplines reviewed public feedback and analyzed potential effects from the proposed activities. An EA detailing potential effects from the proposed management activities has been prepared by these specialists.

For those of you who have access to a computer, by Tuesday (April 8th), we plan on including the EA on the Flathead National Forest website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead/nepa/trav_mngmt.shtml. The Bruce Creek to Alpine 7 to Napa Point Motorized Trails Project EA document should be apparent at that point. Copies will be available at the Spotted Bear Ranger Station in Hungry Horse and at the Swan Lake Ranger Station in Bigfork. You may contact us directly at the Spotted Bear Ranger Station (406-387-3800) and we will send you a hard copy of the EA directly. You may request either a Compact Disc (CD), or a printed version of the EA.

Comments on this EA are requested from you and other reviewers. The Responsible Officials, Steve Brady and Debbie Mucklow, will consider all public comments before making a decision (anticipated by June 2008). When submitting comments, please provide specific facts along with supporting reasons that you believe should be considered by the Responsible Officials in reaching a decision. Comments may be submitted in writing, orally, or through electronic means. To retain your administrative appeal rights, you must provide written, oral, or electronic comments during this 30-day comment period. This legal notice will be published in The Daily Inter Lake newspaper of record, and the comment period will start on the day following publication of the legal notice and ends 30 days following the date of publication. We expect the publication date to be April 8, 2008. Your comments must be postmarked by the end of the 30-day comment period. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record, and will be available for public inspection.



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Send written comments to:

Debbie Mucklow (District Ranger)
Bruce Creek to Alpine 7 to Napa Point Motorized Trails Project
Spotted Bear Ranger District
P.O. Box 190340, Hungry Horse, Montana 59919

Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Written comments must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the 30th calendar day following publication of the legal notice. Hand delivered comments must be time and date imprinted at the Spotted Bear Ranger District office (10 Hungry Horse Drive, Hungry Horse, Montana) by the close of business on the 30th calendar day following publication of the legal notice.

Electronic comments may be submitted to comments-northern-flathead-spotted-bear@fs.fed.us. The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments. Acceptable formats are MS Word, Word Perfect, Portable Display Format (PDF), or RTF. For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

Debbie Mucklow, Spotted Bear District Ranger, and Dale Luhman, Project Leader, are the primary contacts for this Bruce Creek to Alpine 7 to Napa Point Motorized Trails Project. You may contact either of them at 406-387-3800.

Thank you for your continuing interest and involvement in this project.

Sincerely,

DEBBIE MUCKLOW
Spotted Bear District Ranger