

Decision Memo

York 38 Special Mountain Bike Adventure Ride

Helena National Forest/Helena Ranger District
Lewis & Clark County, Montana

Decision and Authorized Action

I have decided to approve the application received from the York Volunteer Fire Department of York, Montana, and authorize their use of existing trails and travel routes on the Helena Ranger District of the Helena National Forest to hold the “York 38 Special Mountain Bike Adventure Ride”.

A Special Use Permit will be issued to the York Volunteer Fire Department to organize and hold a one-day mountain bike ride for up to 200 participants and spectators for the next five years. The event is scheduled to take place one Saturday in either July or August each year.

The race will begin at the York Community Hall in the town of York and will proceed north on Lewis & Clark County’s Nelson Road for approximately 8 miles to the town of Nelson. Then will proceed east-northeast on Lewis & Clark County’s Beaver Creek Road approximately 2 miles to its end at 7095 Beaver Creek Road (June’s Bit of Heaven) continuing east-southeast along Forest Service Road #138 and then connecting to the Trout Creek Canyon Trail #270 for an additional 3 miles to Vigilante Campground. The ride will then follow Forest Service Road #4137 west approximately 1 mile to it’s junction with Lewis & Clark County’s York Road at 9609 York Road (Welch Ranch).

Stipulations contained in the Permit will be designed to protect the National Forest surface resources (i.e. the race course will be restricted to existing travel routes, trash removed from the National Forests, route marking [flagging, posters, signs, etc.] removed after the race. An operation plan will be required in addition to liability insurance on an annual basis. A minimum use fee will be charged annually for the Permit.

No extraordinary circumstances exist that might cause this action to have significant effects upon the quality of the human environment. In accordance with the Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, W.O. Amendment 1909.15-92-1, 32.1b(8) Categories Established by the Chief (approval of minor special uses of National Forest System lands), this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact statement or an Environmental Analysis.

Scoping

This is the third year for this event to take place on the Helena Ranger District. A Project Initiation Letter describing the project was routed internally to various Forest Service resource specialists. In addition the proposed project was listed on the Helena National Forest NEPA

Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions beginning in January 2006. A scoping letter was sent out on February 10, 2006 to 40 individuals and interested parties with a map and information on the proposal. Three letters were received in support of the event. One letter of response was received from the Montana Natural Heritage program and has been analyzed in the botany and wildlife write-ups (project record).

Issues and Concerns

No significant issues or concerns were raised.

Findings Required By Other Laws

This action complies with management direction, including standards and guidelines, contained in the Helena Forest Plan (1986), II, 29.

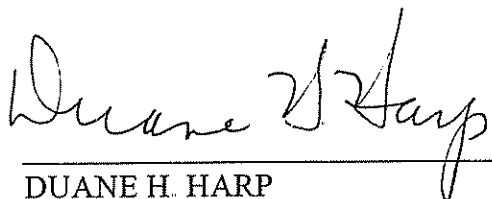
There will be no measurable effect on any threatened, endangered, or sensitive wildlife or plant species resulting from the action on National Forest lands.

Implementation

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 215.12(f) this decision is not subject to a higher level of review. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

Contact Person

Detailed records of the environmental analysis are available for public review at the Helena Ranger District office, 2001 Poplar, Helena, MT 59601. For further information regarding this decision, please contact Jaime Tompkins at (406) 495-3946.



DUANE H. HARP
District Ranger

6-8-06

Date

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