United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Idaho Panhandle National Forests

St. Joe Ranger District
222 S. 7th St. Suite 1
St. Maries, ID 83861
(208) 245-2531

File Code: 1950
Date: November 25, 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the St. Joe Ranger District:

My staff completed the Fallen Bear Environmental Assessment (EA), and I have enclosed a copy for your review. We'd like to receive your comments on the EA.

Three alternatives were considered in the assessment: No action and two action alternatives. The analysis of the action alternatives indicates they are not likely to result in any significant environmental effects to the human environment.

The Fallen Bear EA looks different than those you may be used to seeing. The effects of the proposed action are summarized in the EA, and details about the analysis and effects are found in resource reports. Those reports are available by request from the St. Joe Ranger District or on the IPNF website at: www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/eco/manage/nepa/index.

Forest Supervisor, Ranotta K. McNair, is the Responsible Official for this project. She will consider all public comments before making a decision. In submitting comments, please provide specific facts along with supporting reasons that you believe she should consider in reaching a decision.

Any decision to proceed with actions described in the EA will be subject to administrative appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215 by any party which has submitted written comments on the EA during the 30-day comment period. Comments may be submitted in writing, orally, or through electronic means. The comment period will start on the day following publication of the legal notice in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* (expected November 28, 2008) and ends 30 days following the date of publication.

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. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215. Any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality. When the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.

Please send written comments to: Charles A. Mark, District Ranger
Fallen Bear EA
St. Joe Ranger District
222 S 7th Street, Suite 1
St. Maries, ID 83861

Written comments must be postmarked by the Postal Service, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the 30th calendar day following publication of the legal notice in the newspaper of record (*Coeur d'Alene Press*). The anticipated date of publication is November 28, 2008. Hand delivered comments must be time and date imprinted at the St. Joe Ranger District office located in St. Maries, Idaho by the close of business on the 30th calendar day following publication of the legal notice. The St. Maries office business hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:00 p.m., excluding federal holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at my office during normal business hours via telephone or in person, or if during non-business hours, must be at an official agency function (such as a public meeting) which is designed to elicit public comment.

Electronic comments may be submitted to comments-northern-idpanhandle-stjoe@fs.fed.us. The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments, in this case: Fallen Bear EA. Acceptable formats are MS Word, Word Perfect, 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.

I appreciate your interest in the Fallen Bear project. If you have questions about this document or procedures for commenting, please contact Cornie Hudson (Acting District Ranger) or Lisa Hawdon (project team leader) at our St. Maries office (phone 208-245-2531). Thank you for taking the time to review and comment on the Fallen Bear Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,

Cornelis H. Hudson for

CHARLES A. MARK
District Ranger