



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: April 20, 2009

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

The St. Joe Ranger District is considering a request for land acquisition by the owners of the North South Ski Area, also known as the Palouse Divide Lodge. The lodge is located approximately 23 miles south of St. Maries, Idaho along Hwy 3, section 13, T. 43 N., R. 3 W., Boise Principal Meridian, in Benewah County, Idaho.

Authority to sell these federal lands was granted through the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-436 signed December 3, 2004). This law authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange any or all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the North South Ski Area along with any improvements to those properties.

If approved, the Forest Service would sell approximately 50 acres of Idaho Panhandle National Forests System Lands to the owners of the North South Ski Area (Palouse Divide Lodge). The area has been preliminarily surveyed and includes all owner improvements that encroach on National Forest System land, parking areas, and ski runs.

Documentation and Appeal

The preliminary analysis of this proposal indicates that it falls into a category of action that may be excluded from documentation in an environmental analysis or environmental impact statement. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12, a final decision would not be subject to appeal. I am the responsible official for this project. If approved, I expect the land sale to be completed this summer.

Your Comments

I'd like to hear your comments on this proposal. To be most helpful during the analysis of this project, I need to receive your comments by May 12, 2009. Please be as specific as possible with your comments. You may submit comments in writing; by phone, fax, email; or in person to:

St. Joe Ranger District
222 South 7th Street, Suite 1
St. Maries, ID 83861

Phone: (208) 245-2531
Fax: (208) 245-6052
Email: comments-northern-idpanhandle-stjoe@fs.fed.us

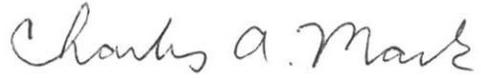
I will inform you of my decision if you submit comments during the project planning process or specifically requested documents pertaining to this project. If I do not hear from you, your name will be removed from the mailing list for this project.



Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered.

I look forward to hearing from you about this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles A. Mark".

CHARLES A. MARK
District Ranger