



File Code: 1950

Date: March 1, 2007

Selkirk Mountain Range Winter Travel Plan
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
Comments Requested by **April 13, 2007**

Dear Interested Party,

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) is conducting an environmental analysis in order to evaluate appropriate winter motorized use within the Selkirk Mountain Range. As an important part of the analysis, we are asking for your input regarding this proposal. This letter and the enclosures describe the proposed action and how to provide comments. The outcome of this analysis will be a decision and updated travel plan for motorized winter travel within the planning area. I would like to give you the opportunity to participate and provide comments. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be published in the Federal Register on March 8, 2007.

We can best use your comments if we receive them by **April 13, 2007**. We know that many of you have already been involved on winter travel planning via our previous scoping and through meetings on our Forest Plan Revision. We appreciate your input and will include it as we continue this analysis. At this stage, your comments will help us in identifying the significant issues for analysis and a range of alternatives to consider. The recent lawsuit regarding snowmobiling within the caribou recovery area has also identified issues and possible alternatives to further analyze. The proposal attached to this letter will serve as a starting point for the development of alternatives that respond to our purpose and need. Please remember that this proposal is a starting point.

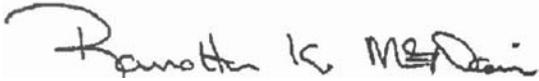
An analysis will be prepared by my staff using an interdisciplinary approach. Once the significant issues and alternatives to be considered have been determined, an environmental analysis will be conducted to evaluate the potential benefits and effects of alternative management strategies. Those findings will be documented in the Selkirk Mountain Range Winter Travel Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be available to tribes, interested members of the public, other agencies, and organizations for additional review and commenting.

We will be available during this comment period to visit with groups or interested parties. If you wish to be notified of future comment periods and public meetings please identify that in your response. Where practical, we encourage use of electronic means to improve our efficiency. **In order to stay on the mailing list** for the Winter Travel Plan, please return either the attached form, submit written or electronic comments, or contact the Project Leader directly.



As further information is developed for public review, it will be posted on our web page at <http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/kaniksu/wintertravelplan/>. If you have any questions during this comment period or wish to discuss the travel plan, please contact Greg Hetzler, Project Leader, at (208) 263-5111

Sincerely,



RANOTTA K. MCNAIR
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure(s)

Comments received on the proposed project (including names and addresses of those who comment) will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. We can accept and consider comments submitted anonymously; however, people who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision (36 CFR 215).

Any person may request that we withhold submitted comments from the public record (pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d)) by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. However, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. We will inform the requestor of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality. If the request is denied, we will return the submitted comments and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted, with or without name and address, within a specified time.

COMMENT FORM – Selkirk Mountain Range Winter Travel Plan

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

My comments are:

Please send me future information on the Selkirk Mountain Range Winter Travel Plan
Send information to my mailing address _____ **my e-mail address**_____

Please remove my name from the mailing list _____

Return Comment form to: Sandpoint Ranger District
Attn: Greg Hetzler
1500 E HWY 2
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864