

Travel Management Planning Proposed Action ~ A Starting Point ~



Greetings!

The Bitterroot National Forest is proposing changes to summer and winter motorized recreational use on specific roads, trails and areas within the non-wilderness portion of the Forest.

This Proposed Action is the **first step** in our planning process. We recognize that not all of the issues expressed to date have been resolved with this proposal, and that many people have not provided input yet.

I hope you will review the Proposed Action contained on the enclosed CD, participate in the public meetings we will host in early November, and provide your written comments by **Nov. 23rd**. We look forward to working with you to define future travel management for the Forest.

David T. Bull
Forest Supervisor
September 24, 2007

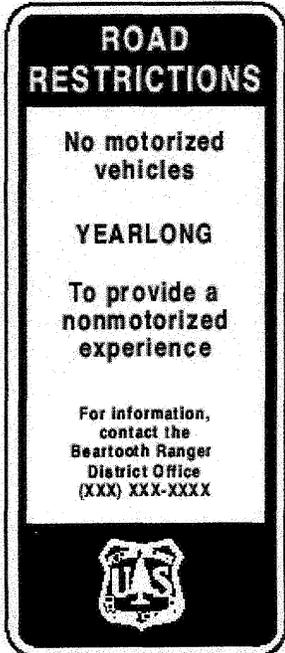


Planning Timeframes:

- Fall 2007
Release of Proposed Action and Nov. Public Meetings.
- Summer 2008
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Summer 2009
Final Environmental Impact Statement and Decision
- Winter 2009
Produce New Motorized Vehicle Use Map



Key points to consider as you read the enclosed Proposed Action:



- Our objective is to provide quality motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities while protecting natural resources.
- We want to clarify and simplify motor vehicle use designations.
- The Proposed Action is just a starting point – it is not a decision.
- The Proposed Action includes carefully considered recommendations for changes received from the public and forest staff that, on initial review, provide:
 - Consistency with the current Forest Plan,
 - Responsiveness to resource considerations, and
 - Opportunities for quality motorized and non-motorized recreation.
- Public comments must be submitted by November 23, 2007 to:
 - Travel Management Planning Team, Stevensville Ranger District, 88 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870. You can mail a hard copy, or
 - Email in MSWord or RTF format to: comments-northern-bitterroot@fs.fed.us
 - or fax to (406) 777-7423
- You may find it helpful to review paper copies of the maps. You can find copies of the maps at libraries in Missoula, Stevensville, Hamilton, and Darby, and at Forest Service offices in Stevensville, Hamilton, Darby, Sula and West Fork.