



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Clearwater National Forest

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208/476-4541  
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File Code: 1950

Date: November 3, 2007

Dear Interested Party,

This request for scoping comments has been sent to you because you have indicated in the past that you are interested in management activities on the Clearwater National Forest. I will be the responsible official for a Travel Planning analysis that the Clearwater National Forest will conduct beginning in the fall of 2007.

The Forest Service published the final Travel Management Rule in the Federal Register on November 9, 2005. The Rule requires each National Forest to formally designate those roads, trails, and areas where motorized travel will be permitted, and to display them on a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). I intend to advertise a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for public comment by summer 2008. A Final EIS (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) will be published by January 2009. A MVUM will be produced by summer 2009.

Once the MVUM is published, motor vehicle use on the Clearwater National Forest will be allowed only on designated routes or areas displayed on the map. The MVUM will show routes designated for non-winter motorized travel, along with permitted vehicles and use seasons. A Winter Use Map will also be developed to show routes and areas where oversnow vehicles are permitted and restricted.

The North Fork District Ranger, Doug Gober, will oversee the Clearwater National Forest's Travel Planning analysis. The Travel Planning EIS will address travel management and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use Forestwide. However, in 2005 the "Upper Palouse ATV Project Environmental Assessment" was completed for most of the Palouse District, with the exception of the Elk Creek drainage. That previous analysis meets the requirements of the Travel Management Rule. Accordingly, for the Palouse District, this Forestwide travel planning process and EIS will focus primarily on the Elk Creek area.

The attached map shows the project area (the Clearwater National Forest), along with existing direction and proposed changes that affect broad areas. More detailed maps that show the proposed action for both winter and summer seasons are available on the Clearwater NF web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/projects/TravPlan/ClwTravel.htm>. The maps on the web site currently show the proposed action as described in this scoping notice, but maps of alternatives to the proposed action will be posted there as they are developed. More details about the Travel Planning proposal are included in the attached document, "Clearwater National Forest Travel Planning Environmental Impact Statement Proposed Action."



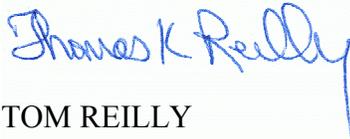
If you would like to comment on the Travel Planning analysis, please send your comments by December 14, 2007 to:

Lochsa Ranger District, Kamiah Ranger Station  
Attn: Lois Foster, Interdisciplinary Team Leader  
Rt. 2 Box 191  
Kamiah, ID 83536

I will also be happy to accept your written comments via email. Please email your comments to me by December 14, 2007 at [comments-northern-clearwater@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-clearwater@fs.fed.us). If you decide to submit scoping comments about the Clearwater National Forest Travel Planning proposal, please indicate if digital documents distributed on compact disks, or web-based documents distributed electronically, would be acceptable to you in lieu of paper documents distributed by postal mail.

The Clearwater National Forest will host several Open Houses during the scoping period, where information about the Travel Planning process will be available, and where members of the public can provide comments. Interested parties will be notified about the dates and locations for the Open Houses as soon as they are scheduled.

Sincerely,



TOM REILLY  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures