

**Gallatin National Forest**  
**Travel Management Plan Project**  
**Detailed Description of the Alternatives Document**  
**Questions & Answers**

October 4, 2004

- Q. Why release the “Detailed Description of the Alternatives” document prior to the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS)?
- A. It is taking longer than expected to complete the Draft EIS. The forest wanted to give people an opportunity to look at how the alternatives may affect their favorite area, trail, or road before the snow comes.
- Q. When will the document and maps be released and how can I get a copy?
- A. The Alternatives document and maps will be available for electronic distribution only (CD or internet) on Monday, October 4, 2004. You can look at a hard copy document and maps by visiting the nearest Gallatin National Forest office or the Livingston or Bozeman Public Libraries. To view the document online please visit the Gallatin Forest’s website at:  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/?page=/projects/travel\\_planning](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/?page=/projects/travel_planning). Hard copies are not being provided at this time because this document will be published with the Draft EIS. The Forest is trying to reduce printing and mailing costs by not providing this document twice in hard copy format.
- Q. When will the Draft EIS be available?
- A. The Draft EIS will be available in early January, 2005.
- Q. When did the travel management plan project begin?
- A. Scoping to determine potential issues and concerns began in 2002. Since this time two scoping comment period opportunities have been available: the Benchmark document and the Alternatives document. The Benchmark document was published in 2002 and the Alternatives document was published in 2003. Comments received during both comment periods have shaped the preferred alternative presented in the Detailed Description of the Alternatives document.
- Q. How have comments that were submitted for the Benchmark and Alternatives documents been used?
- A. Comments received during both comment periods have shaped the preferred alternative presented in the Detailed Description of the Alternatives document. In addition, comments received also modified the original six alternatives presented in the Alternatives document. A detailed listing of significant issues received during the comment periods and how these issues were addressed will be available electronically when the Draft EIS is published.
- Q. What is the preferred alternative and how was it developed?

A. Alternative 7 is the preferred alternative. It was developed using recreation preference analysis, biological analysis, and public input. There are numerous factors influencing Alternative 7, such as the threatened and endangered species found on the Gallatin Forest and the need and desire for high quality recreation experiences by all recreationists while minimizing resource impacts. All alternatives were developed using specialist's effects analysis. This analysis is being compiled and will be published in the Draft EIS.

Q. Is Alternative 7 the decision?

A. No, the decision won't be made until the Final EIS is released. The Forest knows that there may be issues and concerns with Alternative 7. The Forest will again listen to the thoughts and concerns of all those interested in this project and change the selected alternative in the Final EIS to respond to some of those concerns.

Q. Is the Forest asking for comments about the Detailed Description of Alternatives document?

A. No, the release of this document does not initiate a comment period. A formal comment period will begin with the release of the Draft EIS, in early January 2005. The Forest asks that you hold your comments until you have had a chance to review the Draft EIS.

Q. Will the Forest hold public meetings to discuss the Alternatives document?

A. No, the Forest isn't planning any public meetings until the release of the Draft EIS.

Q. Who do I call if I have questions?

A. We suggest contacting your local District Ranger, or the Supervisor's Office in Bozeman. Office phone numbers are:

- Big Timber Ranger District (406) 932-5155
- Livingston Ranger District (406) 222-1892
- Gardiner Ranger District (406) 848-7375
- Bozeman Ranger District (406) 522-2520
- Hebgen Lake Ranger District (406) 823-6961
- Supervisors Office (406) 587-6701