



File Code: 1950-3

Date: September 24, 2004

Hello:

The proposed Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan (Draft EIS) is taking longer to complete than we had anticipated. We expect the DEIS to be released early in January. Therefore I have decided to provide an opportunity for those who might be interested to view the maps and descriptions of the 7 alternatives being studied in detail, including the current preferred alternative. This package, titled "Detailed Description of the Alternatives", will be incorporated by reference into the DEIS when it becomes available. We are not ready to release the DEIS yet as it will take another 2 months to complete, print, and mail, plus we don't want the comment period to be during the holiday season. There will be open houses to discuss the DEIS after it is released.

The "Detailed Description of the Alternatives" will be available **October 4th, 2004**. To obtain or review a copy you can:

- Visit the Gallatin National Forest website at:
http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/travel_planning.
- Obtain a CD of the package from any Gallatin National Forest Office.
- Visit any of the Forest Offices to review a "hard copy" of the document and large scale maps.
- Review a hard copy of the document and maps at the Bozeman Public Library.

Because all of this information will be available in the DEIS, additional hard copies are not being made at this time.

We'd like to ask also that you *please hold your written or verbal comments* until the DEIS is released and the comment period is announced. We will provide several ways to participate during that time. If you have questions in the interim please feel free to call any of the 5 district rangers or Marna Daley of the Supervisors Office at the phone numbers listed below:

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Rebecca Heath
REBECCA HEATH
Forest Supervisor



