



Location: MT

Date: 5/18/2005

Source: Helena Independent Record

Description: Legals - NOTICE OF DECISION USDA - FOREST SERVICE, NORTH BELTS TRAVEL PLAN RECORD OF DECISION; Helena National Forest, Townsend and Helena Ranger Districts; Lewis and Clark County, Broadwater County, and Meagher County, Montana

After careful consideration of the potential impacts of the management activities analyzed and documented in the North Belts Travel Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), information presented in the North Belts Travel Plan Project Record, and public comments received on this analysis, the Responsible Official, Jane P. Kollmeyer, Helena National Forest Acting Forest Supervisor, has decided to implement Alternative 6 with modifications identified in the Record of Decision (ROD) as the management actions to be implemented within the North Belts Travel Plan analysis area. In making this decision, the Responsible Official considered how each alternative meets the purpose and need for action while addressing environmental issues. This decision authorizes a mix of motorized uses (including snowmobiles), non-motorized uses, watershed improvement projects, and trail projects on National Forest lands, roads, and trails.

Specific details of this decision and the modifications are described in the North Belts Travel Plan ROD. Additional analysis information is located in the FEIS and project file. The project file is available for review at the Helena National Forest Supervisor's Office at 2880 Skyway Drive in Helena, Montana.

Copies of the FEIS and ROD are available for review at libraries in Lincoln, Helena, Townsend, and White Sulphur Springs, Montana and can also be downloaded and/or viewed on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/helena/> then clicking on *Projects & Plans* in the left hand column. This ROD and FEIS are also available at the following Helena National Forest offices: Townsend Ranger District, 415 S. Front Street, Townsend, MT 59644. Lincoln Ranger District, 1569 Highway 200, Lincoln, MT 59639. Helena Ranger District, 2001 Poplar Street, Helena, MT 59601. Helena National Forest Supervisor's Office, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215. Individuals or organizations that submitted substantive comments during the comment period (36 CFR Part 215.6) may appeal this decision. It is the appellant's responsibility to provide sufficient project- or activity-specific evidence and rationale, focusing on the decision, to show why this decision should be reversed. The appeal must be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer in writing. At a minimum, the appeal must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR Part 215.14. It is the

appellant's responsibility to ensure their appeal is received in a timely manner. The publication date of the legal notice of the decision in the Helena Independent Record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Appellants should not rely on date or timeframe information provided by any other source. An appeal, including any attachments, must be submitted (regular mail, fax, e-mail, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service) to the Appeal Deciding Officer within 45 calendar days following the publication date of this legal notice of decision in the Helena Independent Record newspaper, Helena, Montana. Paper appeals must be submitted, or delivered in person, to either of the following locations between 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.:

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
ATTN: Abigail Kimball, Appeal Deciding Officer
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, Montana 59807

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
ATTN: Abigail Kimball, Appeal Deciding Officer
200 East Broadway
Missoula, Montana 59802

Electronic appeals must be submitted to appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us. In electronic appeals, the subject line should contain the name of the project being appealed. An automated response will confirm your electronic appeal has been received. Electronic appeals must be submitted in MS Word, WordPerfect, or Rich Text Format (RTF). Facsimile appeals must be submitted to (406) 329-3411. If no appeal is received, implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, five (5) business days from the close of the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of the last appeal disposition.

Information related to this project and about the appeals process can be obtained by contacting Beth Ihle, North Belts Team Leader, Townsend Ranger District, at (406)266-3425 or Jan FauntLeRoy, Forest NEPA Coordinator, Helena Forest Supervisor's Office, (406)449-5201.