

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT
USDA – FOREST SERVICE
NORTHERN REGION
Kootenai National Forest
Three Rivers Ranger District
Troy, Montana**

MOTORIZED USE DESIGNATIONS PROJECT

The Three Rivers Ranger District on the Kootenai National Forest is seeking public input on project-specific planning to implement motorized vehicle use designations on the district, and producing a Motor Vehicle Use Map, as directed by the 2005 Travel Management Rule.

The purpose and need for this project is to designate motorized wheeled vehicle use on the district by the December 2009 deadline, while meeting grizzly bear and big game habitat requirements. To meet this need the district proposes to: 1) Allow motorized access only on currently established open National Forest System Roads for highway legal vehicles. These designations would result in a system of approximately 530 miles of roads open to highway legal motorized vehicles, including street legal ATVs; 2) Allow motorized access for dispersed camping along the designated road system only; 3) Allow non-motorized travel only on National Forest System Trails; and 4) Prohibit cross country motorized use on the Idaho portion of the district.

This project is anticipated to be analyzed in an Environmental Assessment. For a copy of the scoping announcement and map, or additional information on this proposal contact Douglas Spaeth, Project Leader; or Kathy Mohar, Environmental Coordinator at 406-295-4693. Further information is available on the Kootenai website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/kootenai>.

Comments are invited on this proposal. Comments received will be reviewed to determine issues and the scope of the analysis. To ensure consideration, comments should be received by January 31, 2008. Written comments should be submitted to Mike Herrin, District Ranger, 1437 N. U.S. Hwy 2, Troy, MT 59935. The office hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the Three Rivers District office during normal business hours via telephone (406-295-4693) or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc) or Word Perfect format to comments-northern-kootenai-three-rivers@fs.fed.us. The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection.