

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service Kootenai National Forest



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Local Contact:**

406-827-3533

**Date January 28, 2008**

The Cabinet Ranger District is seeking public input on project-specific planning to produce a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) showing travel routes where motorized use is allowed, as directed by the 2005 Travel Management Rule. The Forest deadline for final maps for publication is September 2009. This proposal takes into account public involvement from past District projects, the Forest Plan Revision process, as well as the Forest's Social Assessment and the Recreation Niche assessment process.

To complete a Motor Vehicle Use Map, we have developed the following sideboards, summarized from the District's Travel Analysis Report:

- The area northeast of the Clark Fork River on the Cabinet Ranger District lies within the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone; where as the area southwest of the Clark Fork River on the Cabinet Ranger District is outside the recovery zone.
- Travel management planning has been ongoing on the district for many years to provide for forest management and reach desired grizzly bear standards and habitat criteria.
- This project utilizes the outcome of the forest's Recreation Niche process, where goals were established to maintain dispersed and non-motorized recreation opportunities important to forest visitors.
- The Motor Vehicle Use Map is to be reviewed, updated if needed, and reprinted for the District each year, so this analysis is not a one time occurrence.
- Only wheeled motorized vehicle use will be addressed at this time. Over-the-snow motorized use will not be addressed on the district by this effort.

**The proposed action for the Motorized Use Designations Project is to:**

1. Allow motorized access on currently established open National Forest

*System Roads and to designate motorized trails by vehicle class. The motorized trail designations will be determined by criteria such as location, topography, trail design, and include guidance from policy and regulations.*

*2. Allow motorized access for dispersed camping along the designated road system only.*

*3. Prohibit cross country motorized use on the Idaho portion of the district.*

## **Your Involvement**

Please send written comments to the Cabinet **Ranger District, 2693 Hwy 200, Trout Creek, Montana 59874**. To submit comments electronically, please send to: comments-northern-kootenaicabinet@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc) or Word Perfect format. The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments, Motor Vehicle Use Map or MVUM. You should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from us as confirmation of receipt. If you do not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is your responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

In order to be most useful to us, send your comments by March 6, 2008. 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. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments may not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215.

For more information, or if you would be interested in an open house on this project, please contact John Head, Project Leader, or Gary Kedish, Resource Officer at 406-827-3533.

I am the responsible official for this project. Your time and participation in this planning effort are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

**JULIE A. MOLZAHN**  
District Ranger

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