



News Release

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Forest Service
Lewis and Clark National Forest
P.O. Box 869
Great Falls, MT 59403-0869

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEWIS AND CLARK TRAVEL MANAGEMENT DEIS RELEASED, ADDITIONAL OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED

Forest Service travel planners have released for public review and comment the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for revising travel management in the Little Belt, Castle and north half of the Crazy Mountains, Lewis and Clark National Forest. The complete DEIS was placed in 61 public and college libraries around the state and is posted on the Lewis and Clark National Forest web site:

www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark.

Comments received during the public scoping process for the analysis were used to identify issues and develop four summer alternatives and three winter alternatives for the travel management plan for approximately 1,050,110 acres of National Forest System lands administered by the Judith, Belt Creek, Musselshell and White Sulphur Springs Ranger Districts in Cascade, Meagher, Judith Basin, Sweetgrass, Park and Wheatland counties.

This analysis evaluates the impacts of motorized and non-motorized travel within the project area and identifies a variety of alternatives allowing recreational use and enjoyment of the National Forest System lands while minimizing resource damage, reducing adverse effects to wildlife and reducing conflicts between types of uses. The study focuses on identifying the types of use and season of use that are appropriate on roads, trails and specific areas within the analysis area. Needs for securing additional legal public access routes to reach National Forest System lands are identified and discussed, but no decision will be made on acquiring specific routes.

A public open house has been scheduled for August 17, 7-9 p.m. at the Townsend High School library. The open house will begin with presentations by forest leaders and team specialists. The public may then visit open house "stations" to ask specific questions about each alternative.

Written comments should be sent to Forest Supervisor "Spike" Thompson, Lewis and Clark National Forest, PO Box 869, Great Falls, MT 59403-0869 **by September 15**. Also, comments may be submitted electronically to: comments-northern-lewisclark@fs.fed.us. Please indicate **LBCC Travel Plan DEIS** on the subject line of electronic comments.

For more information, call Team Leader Dick Schwecke, (406) 791-7747.

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