



## How to comment on the Travel Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

### What you should know about making a comment...

- For your comments to receive the consideration they deserve, we must receive them by May 4, 2009, within 45 days of publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register (expected to be Friday, March 20, 2009).
- Your comment should include:
  - Name, address, telephone number and organization (if applicable)
  - Title of the document you are commenting on
  - Specific facts and supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider
- Comments that are concise and specific are less likely to be misunderstood and are of greater value when being considered. Recommendations about specific roads, trails, or issues and the rationale are most useful.
- Form letters and petitions are acceptable, but be aware that the Forest Service will evaluate the content of individual comments rather than the quantity of comments received supporting a particular view.
- Comments, names and addresses received on this proposal will be part of the public record and may be included in the final EIS and available to anyone who requests to see them.

### How your comment will be reviewed and used...

Each letter received is read by a team of experts and each comment is recorded into a database. Each comment is coded by specific topic and by geographic location, if appropriate. Similar comments are grouped and summarized into themes, while unique comments remain as a specific comment. An interdisciplinary team will review and respond to the comments categorized in the database.

It is important to note that no preferred alternative is identified in the DEIS. The DEIS is not a final decision. The final decision may select one of the alternatives or a combination of alternatives.

Some believe their letters are a vote for one side or another. Public comment is not designed to be a voting process, but a way to consider the reasons behind comments, making sure that all possible issues have been analyzed and potential alternatives have been identified for the decision maker.

Public comments are considered along with Forest Service policy and legal requirements, new scientific information, and resource needs.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Travel Management Plan Public Involvement in the EIS Process</h2>				
Proposal Development	Public Scoping	Draft EIS	Final EIS	Record of Decision
Black Hills NF Advisory Board Recommendations  NOHVCC Workshops  Forest Service Travelways Workshops  Travel Analysis  Proposed Action	Gathered public comments during 60-day scoping period  Considered public comments & issues to determine scope of the travel management Plan	Publish DEIS  Public examination and 45-day comment period  Consider public comments  ***** <b>WE ARE NOW AT THIS STEP</b>	Analyze public comments  Revise Travel Management Plan EIS  Publish Final EIS	Publish Record of Decision regarding the Travel Management Plan  [Note: This is the final decision the Forest Supervisor makes regarding motorized travel on the Black Hills National Forest as part of this EIS process.]

**We look forward to your comments...**

Comments can be delivered in many ways, but they must be in writing (paper or electronic) and must be received by **May 4, 2009**, 45 days after the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register (36 CFR 215.6), expected to be Friday, March 20, 2009.

**Send Comments to:** **BHNF Travel Mgmt Plan DEIS**  
**P.O. Box 162909**  
**Sacramento, CA 95816-2909**  
**E-mail to: [BHNFcomments@fscomments.org](mailto:BHNFcomments@fscomments.org)**  
**Fax to: 916-456-6724**

**Delivered in person:** At Black Hills National Forest offices located in Newcastle, WY; Sundance, WY; Custer, SD; Rapid City, SD; and Spearfish, SD.