

Legal Notice
30-Day Comment Period (EA)

Opportunity to Comment on Taylor Pass Hut

The Gunnison National Forest and White River National Forest are jointly preparing an Environmental Assessment for the construction and authorization of a winter backcountry ski hut near Taylor Pass. The hut would be constructed and authorized by special use permit to Alfred A. Braun Hut System, Inc. Construction materials would be staged on the White River National Forest near the Lindley Hut and flown by helicopter to the proposed hut site on the Gunnison National Forest (approximately 1.5 miles south of Taylor Pass – T12S, R84W, SW ¼ of Section 14). The proposed hut location would allow multiple hut-to-hut ski opportunities between the Friends Hut and the existing Braun Huts. The proposed hut would be similar in scope and size to the existing Friends Hut and Braun Huts. Construction would occur in summer 2009 or 2010.

The proposed action description and other information are available from the Gunnison District Office and the following project website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/gmug/policy/#recreation> Additional information regarding this project can be obtained from Bill Jackson, Recreation Manager, 216 N. Colorado St., Gunnison, CO 81230, 970-642-4439, wfjackson@fs.fed.us .

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. This opportunity to comment will serve as both scoping for this project under the requirements of NEPA, and the 30-day comment period required in accordance with 36 CFR 215. Those who provide comments or otherwise express interest during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Glenwood Springs Post Independent and the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. The publication date in each newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to: Taylor Pass Hut Project, c/o Bill Jackson, 216 N. Colorado St., Gunnison, CO 81230 or by fax: 970-642-4425. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00am – 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the Gunnison District office during normal business hours via telephone (970-642-4439) or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to wfjackson@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3).