



File Code: 1950-3/7700

Date: February 5, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

Thank you for taking time to review and comment on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Payette National Forest Travel Plan. I received thousands of comments over the past four years on the Travel Plan, and because of the complexity of this project, have decided to issue separate District specific decisions to better respond to public comments on the Travel Plan. I issued the Weiser Ranger District Snow-Free Travel Plan decision in January of 2008 and the Krassel and McCall Ranger District Snow-Free Travel Plan decision in October of 2008. This is my third of three decisions for Snow-Free Travel on the Payette National Forest.

Enclosed is a copy of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Payette National Forest, Council and New Meadows Ranger District Snow-free Travel Management Plan, including a map displaying designed roads and trails open for motorized and non-motorized travel. The map that will actually implement this decision, the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), will be issued this summer for all five Ranger Districts on the Payette National Forest. This ROD is for the Council and New Meadows Ranger Districts only and incorporates my consideration of the substantive and site-specific comments received on travel management for the Council and New Meadows Ranger Districts. The Winter Travel Plan ROD for the entire Payette National Forest is expected the summer of 2009.

This ROD has several parts. It includes a description of my decision and associated rationale for the decision. It also includes an erratum (Appendix A) detailing and correcting errors found during the review of the FEIS, and a summary of responses to the comments (Appendix B) received on travel management on the Council and New Meadows Ranger Districts.

If you would like additional copies, the enclosed ROD and map are available on the Payette National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r4/payette/. Copies are also available at the New Meadows and Council Ranger District offices as well as the Supervisor's Office in McCall.

This decision is subject to administrative appeal under 36 CFR 215. Appeals can be mailed, or faxed to:

Appeals Deciding Officer
USDA Forest Service
Intermountain Region
324 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401
Fax (801) 625-5277

Appeals can also be hand delivered to the above address during the office business hours on Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or sent by e-mail to appeals-intermnt-regional-



office@fs.fed.us. E-mailed appeals must be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Appeals, including attachments, must be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer (36 CFR 215.8) within 45 days following publication of the legal notice in *The Idaho Statesman* (36 CFR 215.15(a)).

I have scheduled two open houses to review this decision with interested publics. The first open house is scheduled on February 23, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Council Ranger District office. The second open house is scheduled on February 25, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the New Meadows Ranger District office.

For additional information, please contact Jane Cropp, Payette National Forest Recreation Program Manager at the Forest Supervisor's Office, 800 W. Lakeside Avenue, McCall, ID 83638; by phone at (208) 634-0700; or by email at jcropp@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



SUZANNE C. RAINVILLE
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures