



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Green Mountain National Forest
Rochester Ranger District

www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl

99 Ranger Road
Rochester, VT 05767-9431
Tel. (802) 767-4261
FAX (802) 767-4777

File Code: 1950-1

Date: October 1, 2009

Invitation for Comments Leicester Hollow and Ridge Trails Project

Dear Interested Parties:

I am writing to seek your comments on management activities proposed by the USDA Forest Service (USFS) on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) within the Leicester Hollow and Ridge Trails Project area located in the Towns of Leicester and Brandon, Addison and Rutland Counties, Vermont. The Leicester Hollow and Ridge Trails Project proposal includes:

- Reconstructing portions of the Leicester Hollow Trail out of the floodplain
- Eliminating recreation uses on Leicester Hollow Trail
- Designating snowmobile use on the Ridge Trail
- Conducting watershed restoration activities to Leicester Hollow Brook

I am the Responsible Official for the decision on this proposal. The attached document provides additional information with regard to the proposed actions.

This proposal falls in a category of actions excluded from analysis in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, as proposals of this type individually and cumulatively do not have a significant effect on the human environment. The proposed action appears to be within the category of exclusion found at 36 CFR 220.6(e)(1): "Construction and reconstruction of trails."

The purpose of the project is to repair public recreation resources and transportation systems damaged by the August 2008 flood incident; improve watershed health; enhance the effective use of partnerships; and reduce public health and safety risks. It is anticipated that a decision will be made in the late fall/early winter of 2009, with implementation of the project to commence shortly thereafter.

Additional information regarding this proposal can be obtained from: Holly Knox, Recreation and Trail Coordinator, Rochester Ranger District, 99 Ranger Road, Rochester, VT 05767, (802) 767-4261 ext. 530 or email at hknox@fs.fed.us.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Comments will be accepted for a 14-day period following publication of the Leicester Hollow and Ridge Trails Project legal notice in the *Rutland Herald*, our newspaper of record. The



publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Do not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Postal, hand-delivered, oral, electronic and facsimile (FAX) comments on the proposal will be accepted. Postal comments must be submitted to: Holly Knox, GMNF Rochester Ranger District Office, 99 Ranger Rd., Rochester, VT, 05767. Hand-delivered and oral comments must be submitted to the 99 Ranger Rd. address. Oral comments may be submitted by phone to (802) 767-4261 x 530. The office hours for those submitting oral or hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Comments may also be submitted to me by FAX to (802) 767-4777, ATTN: Holly Knox.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), Word (.doc) or Portable Document Format (.pdf), to hknox@fs.fed.us. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

Comments received in response to this invitation, including name and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public review. If you decide to provide comments, you will automatically receive a copy of the Decision Memo for this proposed action.

The purpose of inviting your comments during this 30-day comment period is to collect additional information and to identify any unresolved issues regarding the proposal. Your comments can help me make a better informed decision regarding the proposed project. In your comments, please include the following information:

1. Your name, address and telephone number or email address.
2. The project you are commenting on: Leicester Hollow and Ridge Trails Project
3. Site specific comments about the proposal along with supporting information and rationale you believe will help identify issues.
4. Concerns about environmental effects associated with the proposal.

Thank you for your interest in the Green Mountain National Forest. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

/S/ Gregory Smith
Gregory D. Smith
District Ranger

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-w, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

This document can be made available in large print.

Contact Holly (802) 767-4261

Email: hknox@fs.fed.us