

# NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service  
Caribou-Targhee National Forest  
1405 Hollipark Drive  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Forest Service begins Caribou National Forest Travel Plan Revision**

**Idaho Falls, ID:** The Caribou-Targhee National Forest proposes to revise the Caribou Travel Plan.

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- The revised Caribou travel plan will provide direction for travel on the Caribou Forest's three ranger districts, the Westside (Pocatello and Malad), Soda Springs, and Montpelier.

The Caribou Forest has set restrictions on certain types of travel since the early 1980s. Reasons for travel restrictions include: reducing impacts to wintering wildlife, avoiding fragile soils, maintaining municipal watersheds, ensuring user safety, and providing areas for non-motorized use. Stock and foot traffic are rarely restricted. A hiker can travel on most forest roads and trails. Motorized vehicles may be restricted to designated routes and to seasons of the year when the roads and trails are dry. Some trails are only single-track trails and ATV use is not recommended.

The Forest travel plan map identifies how each travel route is managed, and the details of access. It answers such questions as, "Can I take my motorcycle on this trail? What time of year is this ATV trail open? Can I go off the road, to park my truck and then ride my mountain bike to that ridgeline? Is this trail open to horses? Is this area open to snow machines? A travel plan map identifies the allowed uses for each area, road or trail.

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest released a proposed action for the travel plan in March of 2004. After the proposed action was made public, the forest held a series of open houses to explain the travel planning process and to gather public comment.

All public comments along with comments from other agencies will be used by forest staff to create travel planning alternatives to the proposed action. The proposed action and alternatives are then analyzed as part of an environmental impact statement, or EIS. A draft EIS will be completed this fall. The public is again given a minimum of 45 days to comment on the Draft EIS. A final EIS and decision will be completed in early 2005.

Additional information and details of the travel planning process are available on our website at [www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee), or call our Idaho Falls Office at 524-7500 for more information and to have your name added to the project's mailing list.