



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

July 6, 2009

Contact: Teresa Wenum
406-758-5218

Environmental Assessment Completed for CHR Motorized Route and Area Designation Project Public Comment Encouraged

The Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest has completed an environmental assessment for the CHR Motorized Route and Area Project and is requesting public comment on the project. The CHR Project proposes to designate site-specific motorized use in the Cedar Flats area north of Columbia Falls, Hungry Horse Track, Hungry Horse Reservoir, the Wild and Scenic River portions of the North Fork Flathead River and Middle Fork Flathead River, and locations on the South Fork and Main stem of the Flathead River.

In 2005, the Forest Service adopted a national Travel Management Rule, which requires each National Forest to formally designate those roads, trails, and areas where motorized travel is permitted, and to display them on a Motor Vehicle Use Map. After formal designation, motorized travel would be authorized only on the roads, trails, and within areas as displayed on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. The Glacier View and Hungry Horse Ranger Districts have gone through numerous planning efforts that have resulted in access decisions. The purpose of this site-specific project is to restrict and designate a system of motorized roads, trails and areas that continue to provide access to the Wild and Scenic River Corridor (i.e. North Fork Flathead and Middle Fork Flathead Rivers) and Hungry Horse Reservoir as well as manage motorized use within the wildland urban interface area adjacent to Columbia Falls and Hungry Horse.

The environmental assessment for the project includes two action alternatives, in addition to a no-action alternative. Natural resource specialists from the Flathead National Forest developed the action alternatives based on earlier public comment, field knowledge of the area and resource expertise.

-MORE-

Alternative 2 would designate and restrict motorized use on specific roads, trails and areas. Alternative 3 addresses issues related to reducing the current motorized use occurring near private lands in areas south of the powerline in the Cedar Flats area due to safety, dust and noise concerns.

The public is encouraged to provide written comment on the environmental assessment by August 3, 2009. Comments should be forwarded to Hungry Horse District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera. For more information or for a copy of the environmental assessment document, please contact Project Leader Michele Draggoo at 387-3827 or visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead/nepa/nepa.htm>.

A decision is anticipated in September with implementation expected this winter.

-END-