

# Chapter 4: Consultation, Distribution, List of Preparers, References, and Glossary

## 4.1 OVERVIEW OF CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL EIS

- Public participation summary was updated to include Draft EIS notification and comment period.
- Climate Change, Wildlife and Fisheries references were updated.

## 4.2 CONSULTATION

### 4.2.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Chapter 2 details the public participation to date. The initial scoping document (Project Record) was sent on November 26, 2007 to approximately 237 individuals, government agencies, tribal governments, news media, businesses, and organizations that have shown interest in similar projects on the Custer National Forest. The public comment period ended on January 25, 2008. A news release inviting comments was placed in the Billings Gazette (Billings, MT) on November 27, 2008, summarizing the information provided in the document. News releases were sent to local newspapers.

Public meetings were held in Ashland, Miles City, Billings, and Broadus, Montana in December, 2007.

In response to these efforts, 64 letters, personal comments, or phone calls were received. Collaborative group session information was documented and reviewed. The analysis of electronic, written and verbal comments preliminarily identified several potential issues. Some of these issues were identified as significant issues and were used to formulate the alternatives.

The Draft EIS was published in the Federal Register October 3, 2008 which began a 45 day comment period. The comment period was extended an addition 15 days for a total of 60 days, which ended December 2, 2008. Also, a news release was provided to local news media at the beginning of the comment period. The Draft EIS was made available to interested parties identified in the updated EIS mailing list. In response to the comment period, 44 letters, personal comments, or phone calls were received. A content analysis of the comments was conducted and response to comments is found in Chapter 5.

### 4.2.2 CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS

The following agencies were consulted during preparation of the EIS:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
Bureau of Land Management

Coordination with the affected Tribes has been ongoing in the form of the original project scoping letter, public meetings, agency meetings, letter correspondences and proposed/scheduled field trips which outlined the proposed project specifics and requested any concerns that they may have

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regarding cultural resources or traditional cultural properties. This coordination effort is intended to insure that any tribal concerns or comments are addressed throughout the NEPA process in regards to ARPA, AIRFA, NAGPRA and/or Bulletin 38 issues.

### 4.3 DISTRIBUTION

This document has been distributed in hardcopy or electronic format to individuals that have expressed an interest in the project and receiving this document, and to the officials, agencies, firms, and organizations listed below.

#### U.S. Federal Officials

Honorable Denny Rehberg – Congressman  
Honorable John Tester – Senator  
Honorable Max Baucus – Senator

#### Local Officials

Powder River County Commissioner  
Rosebud County Commissioner

#### U.S. Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
USDA APHIS PPD/EAD  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
USDA National Agricultural Library  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division  
Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Federal Highway Administrator  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Bureau of Land Management

#### Organizations and Firms

Wilderness Society  
Wild West Institute  
Colstrip Rod and Gun Club  
Rosebud Audubon Society  
Alliance for the Wild Rockies  
Montana Wilderness Association  
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation  
Back County Horseman, Yellowstone  
Rimrock 4x4  
Magic City 4x4 Inc.  
National off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council  
Montana River Action  
Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

#### Native American Tribes

Crow Tribe  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

### 4.4 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following people prepared the EIS in an interdisciplinary manner.

#### **Babete Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist/Executive Assistant, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Human Environment

Education: Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Montana State University-Billings

Experience: 22 years in public information with the USDA, Forest Service.

#### **Brian Anderson, Fuels Module Leader, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Content Analysis, Alternative Development

Education: B.S., Forestry

Experience: 4 years of timber sale preparation experience; 4 years of silvicultural experience; 6 years of experience in fire and fuels management – all with the USDA Forest Service

**Mike W. Bergstrom, Zone Archaeologist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Cultural Resources; Archeological Resources

Education: B.S., Sociology - Anthropology Option

Experience: 23 years as an archaeologist, 13 years with the USDA Forest Service

**Brenda Christensen, Civil Engineer, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Public Safety; Maintenance and Administration of Roads and Trails; Editing

Education: B.S., Civil Engineering

Experience: 20 years as a Civil Engineer with USDA Forest Service; Registered Professional Engineer since 1994 in the state of Oregon.

**Megan Dawson, Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Content Analysis, Alternative Development

Education: B.S., Rangeland Science; A.S., Rangeland Management

Experience: 4 years of land management experience with the USDA Forest Service

**Doug Epperly, Recreation Program Manager, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Project Leader; Chapters 1 and 2; Recreation; Editing

Education: B.S., Forestry

Experience: 20 years of land management and NEPA experience with the USDA Forest Service; 5 years of land management and NEPA coordination with the US Bureau of Reclamation

**Kim Frasier, Resource Assistant, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Content Analysis, Alternative Development

Education: Business and administrative management

Experience: 6 years of administrative management experience with the USDA Forest Service

**Nathan Gassman, Natural Resource Specialist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Content Analysis, Alternative Development

Education: B.S., Forestry

Experience: 5 years of land management and NEPA experience with the USDA Forest Service

**Mary Gonzales, GIS Specialist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Mapping

Education: B.S., Renewable Natural Resources

Experience: 5 years as a GIS Specialist and 15 years as a Culturist with USDA Forest Service

**Halcyon LaPoint, Archeologist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Cultural Resources; Traditional Cultural Properties

Education: M.A., Anthropology

Experience: 21 years as an Archeologist with USDA Forest Service

**John R. Lane, Soil Scientist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Soils

Education: B.S. Forest Resource Management; M.S. Soils.

Experience: 21 years as a Soil Scientist with USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (Soil Conservation Service), USDI National Park Service, and Private Industry

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**Ryan Melin, Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Content Analysis, Alternative Development

Education: B.S., Rangeland Science

Experience: 3 years of rangeland management experience with the USDA Forest Service

**Marty Mitzkus, District Fire Management Officer, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Content Analysis, Alternative Development

Education: A.S., Agricultural Business

Experience: 11 years of fire management experience with the USDI Bureau of Land Management; 9 years of fire management experience with the USDA Forest Service

**Mark Nienow, Forest Hydrologist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Water Quality

Education: B.S., Water Resources

Experience: 20 years as a Hydrologist with USDA Forest Service

**Kim Reid, Range Management Specialist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Vegetation Ecology; Weeds; Sensitive Plants; Editing

Education: B.S., Range Management

Experience: 29 years in Range Management, Field Ecology, and Botany with USDA Forest Service

**Keith Stockmann, Economist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Economics Review

Education: B.A., Economics, M.S., Environmental Studies and Ph.D., Forestry

Experience: 7 years as an Economist with USDA Forest Service

**Scott Studiner, Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Content Analysis, Alternative Development

Education: B.S., Rangeland Science and Agricultural Economics

Experience: 20 years in range, fire, and land management with USDA Forest Service

**Darin A. Watschke, Fisheries Biologist, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Fisheries and Aquatics

Education: B.S., Fish and Wildlife Management; M.S., Fisheries Ecology

Experience: 10 years in Fisheries with USDA Forest Service; Fisheries Biologist since 2004.

**Tom Whitford, Wildlife and Fisheries Program Manager, USDA Forest Service**

Contribution: Wildlife

Education: B.S., M.S., Wildlife Biology

Experience: 22 years of land management and NEPA experience with the USDA Forest Service

## 4.5 REFERENCES

### 4.5.1 CHAPTER 1: PURPOSE AND NEED, AND PROPOSED ACTION

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### 4.5.2 CHAPTER 2: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES

#### 4.5.2.1 Air Quality

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#### 4.5.2.2 Hiking and Riding Areas (Management Area J)

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#### 4.5.2.3 Alternatives Considered in Detail

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## 4.6 GLOSSARY

**Area** – A discrete, specifically delineated space that is smaller, and in most cases much smaller, than a Ranger District.

**Designated Road, Trail, or Area** - A National Forest System road, a National Forest System trail, or an area on National Forest System lands that is designated for motor vehicle use pursuant to 36 CFR 212.51 on a motor vehicle use map. (36 CFR 212.1)

**Designation** – Motor vehicle use on NFS roads and trails, and in areas on NFS lands shall be designated by vehicle class and, if appropriate, by time of year.

**Forest Road or Trail** - A forest road or trail is a road or trail wholly or partly within, or adjacent to, and serving the National Forest System and which is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources. (23 USC 101)

**Hiking and Riding Areas** – Per the glossary in the 1986 Custer Forest Plan, this term applies to *“Three specific areas identified in the Ashland Unit Plan in which special management requirements were developed in to preserve the area’s characteristics for recreation purposes.”*

**Maintenance Level 1** - These are roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses. The period of storage must exceed 1 year. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to prevent damage to adjacent resources and to perpetuate the road for future resource management needs. Emphasis is normally given to maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns. Planned road deterioration may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are "prohibit" and "eliminate" all traffic. These roads are not shown on motor vehicle use maps. Roads receiving level 1 maintenance may be of any type, class, or construction standard, and may be managed at any other maintenance level during the time they are open for traffic. However, while being maintained at level 1, they are closed to vehicular traffic but may be available and suitable for nonmotorized uses.

**Maintenance Level 2** - Assigned to roads open for use by high clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic, user comfort, and user convenience are not considerations. Warning signs and traffic control devices are not provided with the exception that some signing, such as W-18-1 “No Traffic Signs,” may be posted at intersections. Motorists should have no expectations of being alerted to potential hazards while driving these roads. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or a combination of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. Log haul may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either to:

- a. Discourage or prohibit passenger cars, or
- b. Accept or discourage high clearance vehicles.

**Maintenance Level 3** - Assigned to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is applicable. Warning signs and traffic control devices are provided to alert motorists of situations that may violate expectations. Roads in this maintenance level are typically low speed with single lanes and turnouts. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either "encourage" or "accept." "Discourage" or "prohibit" strategies may be employed for certain classes of vehicles or users.

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**Maintenance Level 4** - Assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Most roads are double lane and aggregate surfaced. However, some roads may be single lane. Some roads may be paved and/or dust abated. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices is applicable. The most appropriate traffic management strategy is "encourage." However, the "prohibit" strategy may apply to specific classes of vehicles or users at certain times.

**Maintenance Level 5** - Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. These roads are normally double lane, paved facilities. Some may be aggregate surfaced and dust abated. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices is applicable. The appropriate traffic management strategy is "encourage."

**Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)** – - Map required by the 2005 Motorized Travel Rule that indicates designated roads, trails and areas.

**National Forest System Road (System Road)** - A forest road other than a road which has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a State, *county* or other local public road authority. (36 CFR 212.1, 36 CFR 251.51, 36 CFR 261.2)

**National Forest System Trail (System Trail)** - A forest trail other than a trail which has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a State, county or other local public road authority. (36 CFR 212.1)

**Off-highway Vehicle** – Any motor vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland or other natural terrain.

**Road** – A motor vehicle route over 50 inches wide, unless identified and managed as a trail.

**Route Decommissioning** – Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a more natural state.

**Season of Use** - The time of year that a system road is designated for use.

**Temporary road or trail** – A road or trail necessary for emergency operations or authorized by contract, permit, lease, or other written authorization that is not a forest road or trail and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas.

**Trail** – A route 50 inches or less in width or a route over 50 inches wide that is identified and managed as a trail.

**Unauthorized road (non-system road)** – A road or trail that is not a forest road or trail.

**Other Relevant Info:** State laws regarding operation of motor vehicles apply to system roads; state laws regarding operation of motor vehicles do not apply to system trails. (CFR's defer to state laws on system roads.).

**- End of Chapter 4 -**