



File Code: 1910
Date: April 13, 2015

Dear Interested Citizen,

The Fortine Ranger District of the Kootenai National Forest (KNF) has developed a Proposed Action for the Ten Lakes Travel Management Project. The project area is located north and east of Eureka, Montana and includes 64,177 acres. The project boundary contains the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area (WSA) but is larger than the study area to capture common entrance points to the WSA. The project boundary was drawn on existing road and boundary lines. Although the boundary contains some private land, the proposals are for National Forest System Lands only. I am the Responsible Official for this project.

Proposed activities include designation of over-snow motorized use areas and non-winter trail management. There are two proposed seasons of motorized over-snow vehicle travel. Season One (December 1 – March 31) would allow travel on over 36,000 acres and approximately 12.5 miles of designated over-snow motorized vehicle routes. Season Two (April 1 – May 31) would allow travel on over 4,000 acres and approximately 32.9 miles of designated over-snow motorized vehicle routes. Non-winter trail management proposals include designating trails that allow hiking, stock, or mechanized use.

While some of this proposal was included in the scoping package for the Galton project that was publicly scoped in June of 2009, the Forest Supervisor decided that travel management merits its own analysis process and has split it from the previous project. Thus, we have chosen to re-scope the proposed action for this area as Ten Lakes Travel Management. During prior efforts for the Galton project, a great deal of valuable information was gained from the public. This information has been and will continue to be used along with information gained during analysis of Ten Lakes Travel Management.

The Proposed Action is available for review online at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/kootenai/landmanagement/projects> . Scroll down to *Kootenai National Forest Current and Recent Projects* and select *Ten Lakes Travel Management*. A hard copy is available upon request by contacting project leader Moira McKelvey at (406) 296-2536, or by stopping by either the Murphy Lake or Eureka Ranger Stations.

The interactive mapping tool is available to submit information for this project. The tool can be found on the Kootenai National Forest web page at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai> . Information collected through the mapping tool is valuable to both myself and the interdisciplinary team and will be considered during the analysis phase of this project. However, providing information through the interactive mapping tool is not considered a formal comment for this project. Further instructions for providing formal comment are contained in this letter.

I value your comments on this proposal. The District will be conducting an analysis of potential environmental effects in the coming months, and all comments received will be considered. At this stage of the planning process, site specific comments are requested to help determine the scope of the analysis and identify significant issues and potential alternatives to the proposed action.



This project will be subject to the Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process (the “objection” process) pursuant to 36 CFR 218. Objections will only be accepted from those who have submitted written comments specific to the proposed project during scoping or other public involvement opportunity (36 CFR 218.5). For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments must either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in §218.25 (a)(3).

Prior comments received in relation to the Galton project will not determine standing in the objection process. Only comments received in response to the proposed action for this Ten Lakes Project will be considered to have standing.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral and electronic comments will be accepted for 30 days following publication of legal notice in *The Missoulian*. *The Missoulian* has been established as the newspaper of record for the Kootenai National Forest. Publication of the newspapers of record occurred in the *Federal Register* on February 5, 2015 and this change became effective on March 1, 2015. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period.

In submitting comments, please provide: (1) your name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; (2) title of the document on which comment is being submitted; (3) specific facts, along with supporting reasons that you believe should be considered; and (4) your signature. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of those who comment will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Anonymous comments will be accepted; however people submitting anonymous comments will not have standing for future objections on the decision (36 CFR 218).

Send electronic comments to: comments-northern-kootenai-fortine@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text (.rtf), Word (.doc), or PDF and must contain “Ten Lakes Travel Management” in the subject line. For e-mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of receipt, it is the sender’s responsibility to ensure timely submission by other means.

If you have questions regarding this project, please contact me using the information provided in the letterhead. Thank you for your consideration and thoughtful comments on the Ten Lakes Travel Management Project.

Sincerely,



BRYAN L. DONNER
District Ranger

