



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Idaho Panhandle
National Forests

St. Joe Ranger District
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File Code: 1950

Date: April 15, 2010

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the St. Joe Ranger District:

I would like to update you on with the St. Joe Travel Management Environmental Assessment (EA) and decision. My staff and I have considered the comments we received on the EA and incorporated some of the suggestions we heard and responded to all of the comments. The interdisciplinary team has reviewed the EA, incorporated necessary clarifications and documented further analysis, where appropriate. I greatly appreciate your continued efforts to help us understand your desires for travel management.

I have made a preliminary decision on the St. Joe Travel Management Plan and we are currently in informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on my decision. Once consultation is complete, the St. Joe Travel Management EA and my decision will be published and made available to the public. I expect to have the EA and decision available to you by late May.

We anticipate that the St. Joe Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), the first step in implementing the Travel Plan, should be available by the beginning of October. The MVUM will display those roads and trails designated for motorized use, specifying vehicle class and time of year, where appropriate on the St. Joe Ranger District. Cross-country motorized use will be prohibited off designated motorized routes. The MVUM will be free to the public and it will be the principal education and law enforcement tool for travel management. It will be the responsibility of forest users to get Motor Vehicle Use Maps from Forest Service offices or websites and to ensure they are only using motorized vehicles on routes designated for their particular motorized recreational activity.

Thank you again for your contributions to develop a travel management plan for the St. Joe Ranger District over the last two years! I want to express my gratitude to those of you who took the time and effort to help us develop the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action analyzed in the EA. The contributions of the St. Joe Focus Group and the greater public were invaluable in our deliberations to determine management of roads and trails on the St. Joe Ranger District.

Sincerely,

CHARLES A. MARK
District Ranger

