



File Code: 2300

Date: October 22, 2010

Dear Forest User:

I am contacting you to inform you of our progress on the Cave Run Non-Motorized Trails Initiative. The project was initiated to improve the current trail system and provide sustainable and environmentally sound trail opportunities for non-motorized use around Cave Run Lake. A scoping package soliciting public comments on the initial proposal was mailed last November, and a public meeting was held on November 23, 2009, to answer questions regarding the proposed action.

Hundreds of comments were received in response to the initial proposal. An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists reviewed your comments and suggestions to identify key issues. We had hoped to have alternatives developed by late summer, but recognized we needed additional information about existing trails to address issues and develop alternatives that meet the needs of trail users.

Therefore, our next step is to complete a trails assessment. This will give us the best information to move forward to a decision that addresses both social and resource issues. We will then take your issues and combine them with the results of the trails assessment to develop alternative management actions.

The assessment will help us compare the capabilities of the terrain and trail system with your stated issues and concerns, as well as provide us with viable options for managing the Cave Run Lake trails. The information developed during the assessment will help answer questions such as "is the Caney area capable of sustaining all-season use? What improvements are required to sustain trails that provide the desired experiences?"

I invite you to meet with us the first weekend of December to kick off the assessment phase of the trail planning process. A two-day workshop on December 4 and 5 will be presented by Woody Keen, the President of Trail Dynamics LLC. Mr. Keen will provide us with an interactive and educational look at how we can optimize user experiences within the capabilities of the trail system as well as provide an understanding of the influences of terrain, soils, and climate. This is an introduction to collaboratively recognizing and understanding the possibilities for design and management of the Cave Run trail system.

In addition, the Forest Service employees working on this project will be available to meet with you on Friday, December 3 from 4-8pm to discuss what we heard during the comment process, why we have changed our course of action and timeline, and how we plan to use the trail assessment process.



Information on the open house and workshop is attached. We welcome you to attend both events, but one or the other is an option if both are not feasible. Please note that the second day of the workshop is scheduled at a different location than that of the open house and the first workshop session.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend either event so that we can adequately prepare. You may call or email Cindy Brookshire at 859-745-3106 or cbrookshire@fs.fed.us.

We recommend bringing your own lunch and drinks on Saturday and Sunday, as local fast food restaurants are limited. If you have any questions regarding the project, open house, or workshop, please contact Dave Manner at 606-784-6428 or email davemanner@fs.fed.us, or Becky Riegle at 989-724-9381 or email riegle@fs.fed.us.

We recognize that this process has taken significantly longer than we originally estimated. I would like to encourage everyone who has worked so diligently to remain involved. We are making every effort to fully analyze the comments, assess the capabilities of the trail system for the desired uses, and develop a range of alternative actions reflective of the issues and resource capabilities; all leading towards a final decision that is based on the best information available.

We appreciate your interest and support in the project and look forward to seeing you in December.

Sincerely,

/s/ Frank R. Beum
FRANK R. BEUM
Forest Supervisor

cc: James D Manner