



File Code: 1950-3

Date: March 16, 2009

Friend of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Dear Friend of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest:

I am pleased to announce the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Motorized Vehicle Use on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The DEIS discloses the environmental impacts associated with four alternatives for managing motor vehicle use on the Forest. The DEIS focuses on the change from the current condition.

Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 were developed with the understanding that the preferred alternative, and ultimately the final decision, would be made based on a comparison of the merits of each option. In other words, the **preferred alternative** and then the decision will likely be some combination of these alternatives.

Your comments will be critical in refining this draft proposal prior to my final decision in September 2009. I strongly encourage you to closely review the enclosed document. Make your comments as site specific as possible, preferably by referring to those specific roads or trails you have concerns about and through reference by page number or section to the DEIS.

This DEIS is made available for a 45-day Comment Period, under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.10). The Forest Service will accept written, electronic and oral comments beginning on the day following date of publication of the notice of availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. This day is scheduled to be **March 27, 2009**. The Comment Period will close on **May 11, 2009**.

The DEIS paper copy or compact disc is enclosed as requested. For those of you who indicated you wanted to view the document on the Internet, the DEIS is now on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Website at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/projects/travel/index.shtml>

Comments received will be reviewed and sorted into two categories: substantive and non-substantive. Emphasis will be placed on the content of comments, not on the number of times a comment is received (or the number of signatures on petition or form letter responses). The Forest Service will respond to substantive comments received in an appendix to the Final EIS.

A substantive comment is defined as: "A review comment made by a respondent that offers a concern with factual basis that may have bearing on the decision being made" (USFS Public Participation Handbook).



*Substantive comments are more useful because they act to:*

- Provide new information pertaining to any alternative*
- Identify a new relevant issue or expand upon an existing issue*
- Identify a different way (alternative) and/or modify existing alternatives considered*
- Develop and evaluate alternatives not previously considered to meet the underlying need*
- Identify a specific flaw in the analysis to assist us in making factual corrections, and/or supplement, improve or modify our analysis*
- Ask a specific relevant question that can be meaningfully answered or referenced*
- Identify an additional source of credible research, which if utilized, could result in improved analysis*

Please send your written comments to:

USDA Forest Service  
Travel Management Team  
645 Washington St.  
Ashland, OR 97520

Please send your email comments to:

comments-pacificnorthwest-rogueriver-siskiyou@fs.fed.us

If you have questions or would like additional information about Motorized Vehicle Use on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, please contact either Steve Johnson (Interdisciplinary Team Leader) at 541-552-2900 or Tim Chesley (Project Manager) at 541-618-2200.

Open House public meetings will be held in April at various locations to assist you in formulating your comments. These informal meetings will give people an opportunity to view displays, talk with various team members, and get questions answered. You will receive a separate letter describing times, locations, and dates for the public meetings. Press releases will also be sent to various media outlets in southern Oregon and northern California.

Again, your comments to this DEIS will be very important to preparation of the Final EIS and the design and selection of a final decision. Thank you for taking the time to be involved in this important process.

Sincerely,

  
SCOTT D. CONROY  
Forest Supervisor