

# Chapter 4

## Public Involvement

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Chapter 4. Public Involvement.....	1
4.1    Public Involvement Summary.....	1
4.1.1    Cooperating Agencies .....	1
4.1.2    Pre-NEPA 2006 – March 2007.....	1
4.1.3    Scoping Begins 2007.....	1
4.1.4    Revised Proposed Action 2008.....	2
4.1.5    Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) September 2008 .....	2
4.2    List of Recipients.....	2
4.2.1    Media .....	2
4.2.2    State, County, and City Officials .....	3
4.2.3    Federal Agencies and Officials .....	3
4.2.4    State Agencies.....	3
4.2.5    Tribal Governments.....	3
4.2.6    Organizations .....	3
4.2.7    Individuals .....	3

## CHAPTER 4. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

### 4.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY

Twenty-four news releases and one guest editorial regarding the travel planning effort were published in the local and regional papers since spring of 2006. These newspapers included The Recorder Herald (Salmon), The Challis Messenger (Challis), The Arco Advertiser (Arco), The Mountain Express (Ketchum), The Wood River Journal (Hailey), The Post Register (Idaho Falls), The Idaho Statesman (Boise), The Idaho State Journal (Pocatello), Rexburg Standard-Journal (Rexburg), KSRA Radio (Salmon), all in Idaho, and the Ravalli Republic (Hamilton, MT) and the Dillon Tribune (Dillon, MT). The news releases were also sent to KSRA radio (Salmon), and local websites including: lemhiweb.com and lmshumate.com.

The Salmon-Challis NF website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/recreation/Travel%20Plan/index.shtml>, was used to disseminate information and gather public comments.

The Travel Planning project (including the Proposed Action, Revised Proposed Action, Draft EIS (DEIS), news releases, and additional information) was featured on the website throughout the public involvement period.

The Proposed Action maps, the DEIS and maps, narratives, and summaries were also available for review at the Challis-Yankee Fork and Middle Fork Ranger District Offices (Challis), the Lost River Ranger District Office (Mackay), the Leadore Ranger District Office (Leadore), the North Fork Ranger District Office (North Fork), the Salmon-Cobalt Ranger District Office and Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor's Office (both in Salmon).

#### 4.1.1 COOPERATING AGENCIES

At the request of a local Board of County Commissioners, the SCNF offered cooperating agency status to the three counties (Butte, Custer, and Lemhi) where SCNF lands occur. Cooperating agency representatives from these three counties were invited to participate in meetings, review public comments, identify issues and alternatives, and assist the interdisciplinary process.

#### 4.1.2 PRE-NEPA 2006 – MARCH 2007

Prior to publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement in the Federal Register, the Forest Service briefed local government officials, motorized advocacy groups, businesses, special interest groups, and environmental organizations. Beginning in May 2006, 14 public meetings were held in Salmon, Challis, Mackay, North Fork, Gibbonsville, Leadore, Arco, Howe, Hailey, Stanley, Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, Pocatello and Boise. During the summer of 2006, five travel planning public field trips were hosted on the Forest. The final information meetings of the pre-NEPA period were held in February 2007. The SCNF issued 12 news releases concerning Travel Planning between April 24, 2006 and March 26, 2007.

#### 4.1.3 SCOPING BEGINS 2007

An NOI was published in the Federal Register on August 3, 2007, describing the agency's initial proposal to designate a system of roads, trails, and areas for public motor vehicle use. Scoping letters were sent to 651 individuals, groups, agencies and Tribes. The project first appeared in the Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions in July 2007. In August 2007 the Forest Service held seven public open-house meetings in Stanley, Challis, Mackay, Salmon, Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, North Fork and Leadore, Idaho. The Forest received 201 forms, 50 letters, and 9,069 e-mails in response to scoping. These public comments went through an extensive content analysis which resulted in 89 public concern statements that were

presented on the Salmon-Challis NF website. The public concern statements were used to develop issues analyzed in the DEIS. Documents detailing the review of public comments and how the agency incorporated substantive comments into alternative design are available in the Project Record. The Forest issued six news release related to travel planning between July and October 2007.

#### **4.1.4 REVISED PROPOSED ACTION 2008**

Many public comments requesting better quality and more accurate Proposed Action maps were received after the NOI was published and maps and tables of proposed designated routes were posted on the SCNF website. During the fall and winter of 2007-2008, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and associated databases were upgraded and refined to improve the quality and accuracy of the maps and information needed for detailed analysis. As a result, errors in the mileages of roads and motorized trails and inconsistencies with direction in the forest plans were discovered.

A Revised NOI was published in the Federal Register on May 30, 2008, correcting errors and resolving inconsistencies. Thirty-two comment letters were received in response to the Revised NOI.

Scoping letters were sent to three Tribal Nations: the Nez Perce Tribe, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.

#### **4.1.5 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) SEPTEMBER 2008**

A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the DEIS was published in the Federal Register on Friday, September 26, 2008, starting a 60-day legal comment period. The DEIS and maps were sent to 556 individuals, three Tribal governments, three cooperating agencies, 19 federal, state and local government agencies, and 32 organizations and special interest groups. Seven public meetings were held in Salmon, Challis, North Fork, Leadore, Mackay, and Idaho Falls and Pocatello, Idaho in October 2008. Over 375 public responses were received in the form of letters, e-mails, faxes, maps, and verbal remarks during the legal comment period. These public comments also went through an extensive content analysis which resulted in the development of 233 public concern statements that were used by the ID team to modify alternatives and to supplement and improve analyses for the FEIS. The Forest Service response to these public comments can be found in Chapter 5, and on the Salmon-challis NF website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/recreation/Travel%20Plan/index.shtml>.

Twenty-two responses were received after the close of the comment period.

Copies of the DEIS were sent to three Tribal Nations: the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Formal government-to-government consultation on the project continued with the Nez Perce Tribe and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

## **4.2 LIST OF RECIPIENTS**

The following is a list of the businesses, agencies, and individuals to whom this Final EIS for Travel Planning and OHV Route Designation was sent. The list includes those who requested copies, required agencies, and other involved parties. Additional copies of this document are available by request, either by document form or CD, from the Salmon-Challis National Forest's offices in Salmon, Challis, Mackay, Leadore, and North Fork, Idaho. This document is also available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/s-c/publications/>.

### **4.2.1 MEDIA**

The Recorder Herald (Salmon)  
The Challis Messenger (Challis)

The Arco Advertiser (Arco)  
The Mountain Express (Ketchum)

The Wood River Journal (Hailey)  
The Post Register (Idaho Falls)  
The Idaho Statesman (Boise)  
The Idaho State Journal (Pocatello)

Rexburg Standard-Journal (Rexburg)  
KSRA Radio (Salmon)  
The Ravalli Republic (Hamilton, MT)  
The Dillon Tribune (Dillon, MT)

#### 4.2.2 STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY OFFICIALS

Custer County Commissioners  
Lemhi County Commissioners  
Butte County Commissioners  
City of Salmon  
City of Mackay

Upper Lemhi Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Lemhi County Road and Bridge  
Lemhi County Emergency Services  
Lemhi County Snowmobile Groomers

#### 4.2.3 FEDERAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Bureau of Land Management, Challis Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management, Salmon Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Federal Highway Administration  
National Agriculture Library  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Park Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
Rural Utilities Service (RUS)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S.D.A. APHIS  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Department of Energy  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 4.2.4 STATE AGENCIES

Idaho Parks and Recreation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

#### 4.2.5 TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Nez Perce Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.

#### 4.2.6 ORGANIZATIONS

American Wildlands  
Blue Ribbon Coalition  
Boulder – White Clouds Council  
Custer Trail Riders Association  
Desert Cheetahs Motorcycle Club  
Gem State ATV Association  
Idaho ATV Association  
Idaho Conservation League  
Lost River ATV Association  
Mackay Off-Road Vehicle Club  
Magic Valley ATV Riders

Nat'l. Foundation for North American Wild Sheep  
Off-Road Business Association  
Ravalli County Off-Road Users Association  
Salmon Search and Rescue  
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter  
Treasure Valley Trail Machine Association  
Tri-County Cattlemen's Association  
The Wilderness Society  
Western Watersheds Project  
White Knob Historical Preservation Committee

#### 4.2.7 INDIVIDUALS

Adams, James E.  
Akerby, Rick  
Albright, Wayne  
Alderson, George and Frances

Aldous, Lynn  
Aldous, Melvin  
Allen, Edwina  
Amacher, Wayne

Anders, Bill  
Andersen, Richard  
Anderson, Gale  
Anderson, Gregory  
Anson, Bo  
Baird, Miles  
Baker, Dennis  
Baldwin, Ben  
Barrett, Gary D.  
Barrett, Roy  
Barrus, Alan  
Barton, Malachi and Casey  
Barton, Mike and Polly  
Basford, Nathan  
Bauhman, Stephen  
Baumgarten, Robert and Marsha  
Bell-Salazar, Amanda  
Belisle, Randy  
Benedict, Oliver (Bo)  
Bigelow, Cathleen  
Bill, Jen  
Bingham, Celeste  
Binik, Lou  
Binning, Gordon and Emily  
Bleak, Bruce  
Bodenhammer, Allen S.  
Bogdan, Donna  
Bomprezzi, Christopher  
Bowhay, Zach and Brianna  
Bowhay, Jerry  
Bradshaw, Butch  
Bradshaw, Leslie  
Browning, Don  
Bukiet, John  
Bunge, Scott  
Burch, Jeff  
Burke, Franklin C.  
Carder, Laurie  
Carder, Tom  
Carlton, Gloria  
Carroll, Howard  
Cheney, Kerrie and Jan  
Clementz, William  
Cobbley, Chad  
Cobbley, Stephen  
Cockrell, Orie and Kortne  
Cockrell, Lamar and Tom  
Conrad, Thomas R.  
Conway, Chris  
Cook, Dane  
Corbett, Dick  
Cox, Ed  
Cranney, John  
Cranney, Justin  
Cummings, Jon  
Dahle, Edward N. and Pamela Hone-Dahle  
Davis, Caleb  
Davis, Dan  
Davis, Jay  
Davis, Josh  
Davis, Stanley B and Jylene  
Davis, Todd  
DeCora, Shirley  
Delaney, Nate  
Deleski, Terry  
Domko, Mel  
Dougherty, Michael (Family)  
Druffel, Todd  
Dudasik, Susan  
Ebberts, William  
Enderton, Bob  
English, Greg  
English, William  
Erickson, Rosa and Doug  
Erdman, Ted  
Erman, Laird  
Fernandez, Claire  
Fisher, Sherrie  
Fishman, Michael J.  
Foley, Greg  
Frauenholz, Lowell  
Frazee, Steve  
French, E. Dand and T.Elaine  
Frisbie, Steven  
Frost, Dean and Betty  
Ganske, Gary and Connie  
Ganske, Paula  
Garcia, Dan  
Geske Family  
Gittelson, CJ  
Goodwin, Andy  
Gosack, Michael  
Graves, Dixie  
Green, Melvin  
Greig, Richard and Sharon  
Grove, John

Gruenzner, James W.  
Hallen, Rob  
Hallowell, Carol  
Hamilton, Kodi  
Hansen, Kirk and Geraldine  
Happersett, Brian  
Hardman, Allen  
Harris, Kelsie  
Harshbarger, Glenn  
Hart, Cheryl  
Hatch, William L.  
Hawthorne, Brian  
Henderson, Harriet  
Hicks, George  
Hildebrand, Cindy  
Hodges, Lynn D. and J. Fern  
Hodges, Shane  
Hogan, Mary  
Holland, Terry  
Horton, Harold  
Huginin, Glenn  
Jackson, Revin  
Jakovac, Donald  
Jarshaw, Aaron  
Jarshaw, Adrian  
Jayne, Jerry  
Jeffords, Mike and Kathy  
Jensen, David  
Jensen, Don  
Jeske, Guy, Robin, and Patrick  
Johnson, Chris  
Johnson, R. James  
Jolley, Brandon  
Jolley, Darwyn  
Jolley, LaVar  
Jones, Bruce and Kathy  
Kauer, Blair  
Keegan, Tom  
Keller, Justin  
Kennedy, Rusty  
Kershaw, Kyle  
Kidder, Brenton  
Kieckbusch, Mark  
Kimble, Gary  
Kluesner, Jim  
Kochert, Michael N.  
Kortum Family  
Krause, Becky  
Lambert, Keith and Cindy  
Lamiller, Ernie  
Larson, Dave  
Leman, Calvin  
Lemo, Fred  
Levison, Kathy  
Lewis, Robert and Phyllis  
Lyon, Ray  
Martin, Tim  
Martonen, Lila  
McCarter, Kathleen  
McClellan, Cliff  
McConnaghy, Walter  
McNew, Brad (Family)  
Miller, Brad  
Miller, James  
Miller, Kay J.  
Miller, Mike and Bernice  
Miller, Richard  
Miller, Theresa  
Misner, Matthew  
Mitchell, Steve (Family)  
Monroe, Jim  
Moore, Brenda  
Moore, Gary  
Morton, Charles R.  
Morton, Devon  
Mt. Borah Ranch  
Nash, Peter  
Nelson, Garret  
Nemger, John  
Nicholls, Jerry  
Ojala, Ann Marie  
Olmsted, Bill  
Oppenheimier, John (Family)  
Osborne Jr., William  
Oud, Jon and Aloha  
Overacker, Merridee  
Overacker, Mike  
Paschal, Dave  
Perkins, Robert  
Perry, E. Guy and Rose  
Perry, Jerry and Virginia  
Peterson, Dale and Mevanwie  
Pierson, Dan  
Piva, Laurie  
Polatis, Chris  
Poston, Barbara (Family)

Prange, Luke  
Raymond, Wally  
Reynolds, Ray and Jackie  
Richman, Louise A.  
Richmond, David and Kathy  
Ringelstetter, RP  
Rissien, Adam  
Roberts, Guy  
Roberts, Hadley  
Roscoe, Jim  
Rosin, Curt  
Rowland, Dwayne  
Roy, Mike  
Schwager, Michael  
Schwarzhoff, Chris and Lois  
Seaberg, Glenn  
Seaberg, Travis and CT  
Shippy, Mike and Carrie  
Simmons, S.R.  
Sims, Don  
Sims, Neil  
Skeen, Mel  
Skinner, Tawna  
Smith, Richard and Jennie  
Smith Family  
Snell-Garcia, Patricia  
Sobota, Mike  
Spain, Geri  
Steele, John and Jo  
Stenersen, Alfred and Barbara  
Stenersen, Andrew and Natalie  
Stewart, Reed  
Stibal, Travis  
Stoke, Jonathan  
Stokes, Paul  
Stone, Jeremy  
Strupp, Randy  
Swanson, Stan and Loreta  
Swope, SD  
Tastad, Jerry  
Thomas, Larry and Deborah  
Thomas, Hoby  
Thomas, Jessica  
Thomas, Kim  
Thompson, Daniel T.  
Thompson, J.  
Tolman, Ed  
Tonsmeire, Amy  
Tonsmeire, Fran  
Tonsmeire, Seth  
Tracy, Wes and Judy  
Tripp, Evan  
Tripp, Ranae  
Udlinek, Eddie  
Vanderwood, Tami  
VanDeWeerd, R.W.  
Veile, Mike  
Wagenknecht, Louise  
Walker, Steve  
Wall, Dean  
Warren, Chuck  
Waterbury, Beth  
Waterman, Phillip  
Weaver, Mark  
Weigand, Terry  
Wenger, Dick and Terri Lynn  
White, Marsha  
Whittaker, James  
Williams, Ross  
Wilson, Larry G.  
Wolfe, Dan  
Wood, Cartee  
Young, Rulon R.  
Zediker, Zip