

Bitterroot Travel Management Plan:

Comment deadline: January 2008

Public Meetings: January 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Travel Management planning documents will be posted on the internet as they become available at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot/projects/motorized_rec.shtml

For more information about the proposed action please contact: Dan Ritter, Stevensville District Ranger (406-777-5461), the Project Team Leader Sandy Mack, (406-777-7415) or Deb Gale, Forest Wilderness and Trails Program Manager (406-821-3269). The Forest will schedule public meetings in January, prior to the end of the public comment period. Meeting times and locations will be announced at a later date.

The Bitterroot National Forest is currently undergoing the scoping process to develop the issues to include in the travel management planning for Forest-wide motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The CDT travels through the Sula Ranger District on the Bitterroot National Forest. For the most part the CDT travels through Wilderness and therefore is protected from impacts due to motorized recreation. This is not proposed to change.

This proposed action is the **first step** in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental analysis process. The USFS recognizes that not all of the issues expressed to date have been resolved with this proposal and that many people have not provided input yet. Issues that are unresolved, or that emerge as a result of public review of this document will be addressed by modifying this proposal and through the development of alternatives that will be analyzed and compared in an Environmental Impact Statement. CDTA looks forward to working with you to help define future travel management in and around the CDT on the Bitterroot Forest.

We encourage you to review information about this process on the USFS Website (see above for link) and let the USFS know your comments on the Proposed Action. Your comments will be most meaningful if they are specific to the proposed action, and to particular routes or areas of concern.

Please mail or hand-deliver written comments to:

Travel Management Planning Team

Stevensville Ranger District

88 Main St.

Stevensville, MT 59870

Office hours are Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Written comments may be faxed to the Stevensville Ranger District at (406) 777-7423.

Comments may be submitted electronically (in MSWord or RTF format) to:

<mailto:comments-northern-bitterroot@fs.fed.us>

Comments received during scoping, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for inspection by the public.

CDTA Response: CDTA commends the USFS for undergoing these processes. Better defining what use is appropriate in which areas help protect the environment, ensure long term high quality recreation for visitors, regardless of the mode of travel, and create a public process through which these decisions are arrived. In the Bitterroot TMP, the CDT travels through the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness in the Sula Ranger District. South of the Wilderness Boundary, the trail follows along an old road. In the proposed TMP, this road is identified as one which will go to non-motorized classification, thereby helping achieve the goal of a non-motorized route for the CDT. CDT Supports this action. IN other areas, the CDT remains on roads open to motorized recreation, and in these cases, CDT proposes in these areas, to relocate the Trail off of these routes onto existing trails in areas that are closed to motorized uses, or to identify alternate routes that allow for a non-motorized Trail Experience.