

File Code: 1950-1

Date: June 18, 2004

Dear Interested Party,

The Winter Recreation Management Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Rabbit Ears Pass and Buffalo Pass areas on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland will be available for 60-day review, June 21, 2004 on our website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/projects/rec>. Comments on the Draft will be accepted for 60 days following publication of the Legal Notice in the Laramie Daily Boomerang newspaper. The Boomerang is the newspaper of record.

In accordance with the Government Paper Reduction Act, and due to the high cost of printing and postage, a copy of the EA is not included with this written notice. A limited amount of paper copies are available from the Walden or Steamboat Springs Forest Service offices. Additionally, a paper copy will be available for your use at local libraries in Craig, Kremmling, Walden, Steamboat Springs, and Yampa, Colorado, and in Laramie, Wyoming. Large alternative maps are available for viewing at the Steamboat Springs District office. If you wish to receive a copy of the EA and maps on CD-ROM, call or stop by the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District office in Steamboat Springs.

Please address written comments on the Draft EA to:

Attention: Winter Recreation Management
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District
925 Weiss Drive
Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487
(970) 879-1870

Please include (1) legible name and address, (2) title of the proposed action (Winter Recreation Management), (3) specific substantive comments on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision. The responsible official is the Forest Supervisor.

Eligibility for Appeal

While this document is not a final environmental assessment, nor a decision document, your response or lack of response will determine your eligibility to appeal the final decision. To insure eligibility please note the following requirements.

1. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal (once the final decision is made) must provide the following (36 CFR Part 215.6):
 - ✓ Name and address
 - ✓ Title of proposed action
 - ✓ Specific substantive comments on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision
 - ✓ Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comment(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility.

2. Those using electronic means may submit a scanned signature. Otherwise another means of verifying the identity of the individual or organizational representative may be necessary for electronically submitted comments or comments received by telephone. Electronic comments can be mailed to comments-rocky-mountain-medicine-bow-routt-hahns-peak-bears-ears@fs.fed.us. (Acceptable format for electronic comments: rtf, pdf, doc).
3. Individual members of an organization must submit their own substantive comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility; comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.
4. Written comments must be postmarked by the Postal Service, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the 60th calendar day following publication of the Legal Notice in the *Laramie Boomerang*.
5. Hand delivered comments must be time and date imprinted at the above address/office by the close of business on the 60th calendar day following publication of the Legal Notice in the *Laramie Boomerang*.
6. For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of the comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.
7. For appeals listing multiple organizations or multiple individuals, a signature or other means of verification must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each organization and for each individual in the case of multiple names, to meet appeal eligibility requirements.

The Responsible Official will consider all substantive written and oral comments submitted in compliance with the above instructions. All written comments received will be placed in the project file and will become a matter of public record. Thank you for your continued interest in winter recreation on the Routt National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary H. Peterson
MARY H. PETERSON
Forest Supervisor

cc: Kimberley Vogel, Richard N Rine, Oscar Martinez, Mary Sanderson

USDA Forest Service - Government mailing lists are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be released to the public under certain conditions. If you do not want your name on this list, please let us know.
