



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In Reply Refer To:
9200 (MTB070)

October 31, 2016

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed the Travel Management Plan (TMP) and associated Environmental Assessment (EA # DOI-BLM-MT-B070-2016-002-EA) for the Park, Gallatin, Broadwater (PGB) Travel Management Area. The document is available for review at the following website: <http://bit.ly/2fdXPEY>

The PGB TMP/EA analyzed four alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. The EA, a Decision Record (DR) selecting the Preferred Alternative, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are enclosed. Alternative C, the Proposed Action and Preferred Alternative, was selected for implementation.

The selected TMP designates a travel route network that consists of roads, primitive roads, and trails, and explains how travel routes will be used and maintained. BLM's goal is to provide an optimal plan to improve the management of transportation and access on BLM lands in this area, and to provide a balance between the demand for diverse types of access and resource protection.

The public was involved during development of management actions for the PGB TMP. Specifically, public participation began in January 2015 when a press release was issued and a scoping notice was mailed to various individuals and organizations requesting input to help identify management issues. Responses to the scoping letter provided comments on a variety of issues. The PGB TMP and Draft EA were released for public review and comment on July 15, 2016. A public meeting was held in Three Forks, Montana on July 27, 2016 to explain the Draft TMP and receive comments. The comment period concluded on August 15, 2016. The BLM received 207 total comment letters/emails on the proposal; substantive comments were responded to in the final EA. Substantive comments made on the Draft TMP/EA were used to develop and refine the Final PGB TMP and EA, and to design an agency preferred alternative responsive to public concerns.

The proposed non-motorized trail system in the Copper City area generated the most public comments. The proposal to construct a mountain bike-optimized trail system (also open to hikers) received overwhelming support. However, the Copper City area is also popular for target shooting, and two comments were received raising concerns about conflicting uses in the area. Therefore, to address potential user conflicts, the BLM will work to construct trails so they are topographically screened from known shooting locations, when possible. In turn, target shooters may need to adjust their downrange or backstop areas away from the trail system. The BLM is available to work with mountain bike groups and target shooters should final trail route location adjustments be needed.

If you have any questions regarding the Travel Management Plan/Environmental Assessment, please contact Brad Colin, BLM Butte Field Office Outdoor Recreation Planner, at 406-533-7638.

Sincerely,

//SIGNED//

Scott Haight
Field Manager

Enclosures