

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region



Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands
Pikes Peak Ranger District
601 South Weber
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Date: September 8, 2011
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Forest Service Seeks Public Comments on Travel Management Plan

The Pikes Peak Ranger District is soliciting formal public comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the South Rampart Travel Management Plan. The purpose of this project is to determine which motorized roads and trails and non-motorized trails on National Forest (NF) lands within the planning area are important in providing a diverse, functional and sustainable transportation system that balances resource protection, public safety, and current and anticipated recreational demands and budget constraints. **Comments must be received before October 17, 2011.**

The project area consists of 121,168 acres of NF lands located north of Colorado Springs and east of Woodland Park and Highway 67 to the forest boundary and along the Interstate 25 corridor. This includes the Rampart Range Road #300, Mount Herman Road #320, Rainbow Falls Motorized Trail System, several watersheds, and two 2001 Inventoried Roadless Areas.

The Draft EA can be found at www.southernrampart.net. Email comments should be sent to comment@southernrampart.net. Written comments may also be mailed to: AECOM, Attn: South Rampart Draft EA, 240 E. Mountain Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80524. A Final Environmental Assessment and Decision is scheduled to be completed by February 2012. This document will include responses, to the comments submitted during this formal 30-day comment period. Based on comments, the final decisions may vary from the Preferred Alternative B.

This process began in early 2009 and included several public meetings. The Preferred Alternative B was defined and presented for comments in March of 2010. The Preferred Alternative B that is presented in the Draft EA has not changed substantially from what was originally scoped. Two changes include a longer seasonal opening for Forest Road 346, Hotel Gulch in the Manitou Experimental Forest and a new location for the proposed trailhead in the Rainbow Falls Area. The proposed Queens Canyon hiking trail was moved from Alternative B to Alternative C, due to potential impacts to wildlife.

“Public access is the foundation of how and where the public utilizes their National Forest”, states Frank M. Landis, Project Manager. “This Travel Management Plan will set forth the framework for how we will proceed with the future opportunities for many forest visitors and make them aware of changes in where they can use motor vehicles”, Landis added.

For additional information, please contact Frank M. Landis, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner, by E-Mail flandis@fs.fed.us or by phone at 719-477-4203.

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