

Forest plan revision public involvement (for forest plan revisions that are either recently completed or substantially through the process at this point)

Forest	# comments	# open houses /meetings
Beaverhead-Deerlodge (signed January 2009)	<p>DEIS resulted in over 11,000 letters and emails.</p> <p>A comment period is not required for an FEIS but due to high public interest and the length of time since release of the DEIS, an additional comment opportunity was offered. Comments were taken initially for 45 days and extended another 30 days. The FEIS and revised draft plan generated more than 32,536 letters, phone calls, and emails</p>	<p>Since May 2001 NOI, Since then the interdisciplinary team (IDT) met, at least once, with 160 special interest groups, civic organizations, state, and county government groups and individuals. The team responded to requests for meetings with special interest groups representing a broad range of interests, including advocacy for wildlife, livestock grazing, agriculture, timber, motorized recreation, quiet recreation, hunting, and wilderness to name a few.</p> <p>Beaverhead and Madison Counties provided public hearing opportunities to encourage public input.</p>
Flathead (still working through process – DEIS will be available for comment January 2016)	<p>The Flathead National Forest received over 20,000 public comments on the proposed action during the 70-day comment period that ended May 15.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eight public field trips in summer/fall of 2013, <u>announced by press release.</u></li> <li>• October 3, 2013 open house.</li> <li>• December 5, 2013 forest plan revision orientation public meeting.</li> <li>• February 19 and 20, 2014 desired future condition meetings.</li> <li>• May 7, 2014 Swan Valley open house</li> <li>• Seven March/April 2015 public meetings</li> </ul>
Kootenai (January 2015)	<p>28,245 responses were received, consisting of 385 unique letters, 378 individual/organization letters, six form letters, and one petition.</p>	<p>From April 2002 to May 2004, the KNF hosted public meetings, open houses, and field trips, and held meetings with county commissioners. Approximately 15 informational and comment meetings took place in and around the local communities during the scoping process.</p> <p>The Forest continued briefings and meetings with tribes; Congressional representatives; state, county, and local elected officials; other agencies; and interested groups as the revision process continued through the ROD.</p> <p>In addition, the KNF hosted approximately 75 workgroup meetings from August 2003 to September 2005.</p>

		<p>On May 12, 2006, the Forest released the Proposed Land Management Plan under the 2005 Planning Rule. Open houses and public meetings were held to share the Proposed Land Management Plan, Comprehensive Evaluation Report, and other documents for the 120-day public comment period</p> <p>The initial 90-day comment period for the draft EIS was extended an additional 30 days through May 7 of 2012</p>
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Public comment & involvement opportunities – travel plans (list includes several projects, and is not all-inclusive for MT's National Forests)

Unit / name	# comments	Public outreach efforts regarding project (i.e. open houses /meetings, etc)
<p><b>Bitterroot NF travel plan</b></p>	<p>A total of 540 original responses (not including duplicative form letters) containing 3,426 comments were received on the DEIS. Responses were received in individual letters, form letters, e-mail, and public meeting comment forms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The public involvement process for the Travel Management Planning Project began in the Fall of 2006. Over the next year, Forest personnel attended a number of meetings with various user groups<sup>1</sup> to gather input on recreational use on the Bitterroot National Forest, listen to their ideas related to nonmotorized and motorized recreation, and discuss the process for travel management.</li> <li>• Meetings were also held in 2006-2007 with the Montana Departments of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Natural Resources and Conservation, the Ravalli County Commissioners, and elected state officials. Additionally, communication was initiated with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai and Nez Perce Tribes.</li> <li>• Fall 2007 – scoping letter sent out, accompanied by press release and newspaper articles.</li> <li>• Winter 2007 – public meetings held in Darby, Hamilton, and Stevensville.</li> <li>• DEIS released August 5, 2009</li> <li>• On September 2, 2009, a letter extending the comment period on the DEIS for an additional 45 days to November 9, 2009 was mailed to the Travel Management Planning Project's mailing lists, accompanied by press release.</li> <li>• Weekly open houses held at Supervisors Office, carried in local media.</li> <li>• Open houses regarding the DEIS were held on Hamilton, Darby, and Stevensville, MT on August 11, 13, and 18, 2009, respectively</li> <li>• Beginning on August 19, 2009 and ending on November 4, 2009, weekly "walk-in" sessions were held at the Forest Supervisor's office in Hamilton, MT.</li> <li>• On September 18, 2009, Forest personnel met with members of the Ravalli County Off Road Users Association at their request</li> <li>• On February 22, 2011, a meeting of the Bitterroot National Forest's Leadership Team was held with the newly elected Ravalli County Commissioners.</li> <li>• On January 26, 2012, Forest personnel met with members of the Bitterroot Quiet Users Coalition, including Wildlands CPR, Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen, Friends of the Bitterroot, Montana Wildlands Association, and the Sierra Club, at their request {PF POSTDEIS-037}.</li> <li>• On February 23, 2012, several members of the Bitterroot National Forest's Leadership Team were invited to provide an update on forest activities to the Ravalli County Commissioners. The presentation included information regarding the Travel Management Planning project {PF POSTDEIS-046}.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Helena NF – Blackfoot Travel (nonwinter)</b></p>	<p>The Forest received approximately 16,941 responses during the 45-day and 90-day public comment period on the DEIS. As a result of a detailed analysis of all of these DEIS comments received, the Forest identified approximately 284 comment letters (some associated with multiple senders).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of intent to prepare an EIS released for 30-day scoping period on 10/29/2010, extended to a 45-day scoping period.</li> <li>• Scoping newsletter mailed to 617 stakeholders including private landowners, agencies, organizations, and tribes, accompanied by press releases and website updates.</li> <li>• Open houses held on November 18, 2010 and November 30, 2010 at the Lincoln Ranger District in Lincoln</li> <li>• Corrected Notice of Intent mailed on October 10, 2012 with more information regarding the anticipated need for a Forest Plan amendment</li> <li>• Published Notice of Availability of the DEIS for comment in the Federal Register on January 25, 2013, and a legal notice of the opportunity to comment on the DEIS in the <i>Helena Independent Record</i> on February 2, 2013. Forest posted the document to the website and mailed a CD of the DEIS (or a letter with the link to the DEIS on the Forest website) to 575 individuals, groups, agencies and tribes.</li> <li>• The 45-day comment period on the travel plan ended March 11, 2013 and the 90-day comment period on the programmatic Forest Plan Big Game Security Amendment ended April 25, 2013.</li> <li>• The DEIS was released in July 2013 and 129 written comments were received. A dozen ID Team field trips were conducted and four public field trips were also hosted. Tours included various areas in the North Belts and a total of 41 public participants attended.</li> <li>• Objection resolution meeting held June 25, 2014</li> </ul>
<p><b>North Belts Travel Plan – Helena NF (May 2005)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping noticed resulted in 139 letters.</li> <li>• Initial DEIS received 301 letters of response.</li> <li>• Final DEIS received 129 comment letters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public input from a series of meetings in 1997 and other scoping responses resulted in development of three user group alternatives. The Forest Service developed three alternatives with information from the Frontier Four-Wheelers, Capital Trail Vehicle Riders Association, and the Wild Divide Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association, all of Helena, Montana.</li> <li>• Approximately 600 copies (summary or DEIS) were sent out for public review, which resulted in 301 letters of response and comment.</li> <li>• Following initial mailing of the proposed action, thirteen newspaper articles/press releases/letters were published in the <i>Helena Independent Record</i>, <i>Townsend Star</i>, or <i>Meagher County News</i> regarding this travel planning effort. Five public meetings were also held in Helena, York, Townsend, and White Sulphur Springs. Four public field tours were held.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination/information meetings were held with many stakeholders during this phase of the project - including livestock permittees, adjacent private landowners, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, American Wildlands, Montana Wilderness Association, Capital Trail Vehicle Association, Frontier Four Wheelers, and Helena Snowdrifters. Information received from these interactions was used to develop the five alternatives in the DEIS.</li> <li>• A small multidisciplinary working group was formed and led by private citizens to identify areas of common ground in travel planning. This group met five times.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Route of the Olympian project (Lolo NF – March 2013)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Forest received 135 comment letters or emails in response to scoping. The letters were split nearly equally between those favoring motorized use and those favoring nonmotorized only use.</li> <li>• At the close of the comment period, 323 comments were received.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Forest held a public meeting on June 2, 2009. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting. During the meeting, it was decided that a diverse collaborative group would be formed, representing various interests.</li> <li>• The collaborative group met several times throughout the summer of 2009 before developing a framework for the proposed action.</li> <li>• On April 15, 2010, the Forest mailed a scoping letter to a wide group of interests and citizens, including local governments, nearby landowners, outfitter guides who use the area, and other agencies and individuals who have expressed interest in receiving information about this type of project, resulting in 135 comment letters or emails regarding the project.</li> <li>• In September 2011, the Environmental Assessment was sent to individuals and organizations that had previously commented on or expressed interest in the project. It was also posted on the Forest website.</li> <li>• The 30-day comment period on the EA began with the publication of legal notice in the <i>Missoulian</i> newspaper on September 23, 2011. Due to the high level of public interest, the comment period was extended another 22 days to November 15th.</li> <li>• A public meeting was held November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.</li> <li>• At the close of the comment period, 323 comments were received.</li> </ul>