

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement Open Houses Planned across State

DENVER, Colo., August 5, 2008 – Beginning on August 18 and running through the second week of September, the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region and the State of Colorado will host eight public open houses across the state concerning the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule and the associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The rule and DEIS address roadless area management on National Forest System (NFS) lands within the state of Colorado.

The open house meeting format is designed to raise awareness and understanding of the proposed rule and DEIS content, thus aiding members of the public to provide substantive written input regarding both the rule and DEIS.

"We encourage the public to learn more about the proposed rule and DEIS. Public comments responding to the proposed rule and DEIS will be used to help shape the rule and environmental impact statement," said Colorado Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director Mike King.

Open houses to create better understanding

The events are not public hearings, but are in an open house format, thus giving people the opportunity to better understand the proposed rule and accompanying DEIS. Those desiring to attend can come anytime between 5 and 8:30 p.m. to view materials explaining the proposed rule and DEIS, speak with specialists one-on-one, and provide written comments.

"We hope offering people flexibility to attend the event when it's most convenient and spend as much time as they like will make it possible for more to attend. We want to make sure everyone gets answers to their questions," said Colorado Roadless Team Leader Kathy Kurtz.

The proposed rule and DEIS culminate ongoing, intensive, and cooperative work with the Colorado Governor's office that began in 2005. The undertaking also represents the State of Colorado's support for a roadless area protection strategy after years of concern over the effects of the 2001 Roadless Conservation Area Rule to the State of Colorado and its residents.

People have 90 days beginning July 25 to comment on the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule. The DEIS comment period began with the Federal Register Notice of Availability (NOA) August 1. Both comment periods will end October 23, 2008.

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Colorado Roadless Rule Public Meetings
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Meeting dates and locations are as follows:

Monday, August 18 5 – 8:30 p.m.	CSU-Pueblo 2200 Bonforte Boulevard Pueblo, CO 81001
Tuesday, August 19 5 – 8:30 p.m.	Bill Metz Elementary School 545 Second Street Monte Vista, CO 81144
Wednesday, August 20 5 – 8:30 p.m.	Fort Lewis College Ballroom 1000 Rim Drive Durango, CO 81301
Thursday, August 21 5 – 8:30 p.m.	Marriott Denver West 1717 Denver West Boulevard Golden, CO 80401
Monday, August 25 5 – 8:30 p.m.	CSU-Lory Student Center 1101 Centre Avenue Fort Collins, CO 80523
Tuesday, September 9 5 – 8:30 p.m.	Two Rivers Convention Center 159 Main Street Grand Junction, CO 81501
Wednesday, September 10 5 – 8:30 p.m.	Hotel Colorado 526 Pine Street Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Thursday, September 11 5 – 8:30 p.m.	Community Center 1605 Lincoln Avenue Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Additional information, comments, or questions

a. Information on the Colorado Roadless Rule and planned public meetings is available at <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/colorado.shtml>.

b. Specific questions regarding the Roadless Rule or Draft EIS:

- Citizens with specific questions should call the Roadless Rule information line at 303-275-5567.
- News media: Contact the USFS Rocky Mountain Region Public Affairs Office at 303-275-5354.

c. Citizen Comments:

- Comments on the proposed rule and DEIS are due by Oct. 23, 2008 and may be sent via e-mail to COcomments@fsroadless.org.
- Comments can also be mailed to Roadless Area Conservation – Colorado, P.O. Box 162909, Sacramento, CA 95816-2909 or faxed to 916-456-6724.