



File Code: 1920

Date: April 25, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

This is the Proposed Forest Land Management Plan for the Flathead National Forest, in western Montana. It describes our proposed framework for guiding on-the-ground projects and activities. While this plan does not make any site-specific decisions, such as which roads would be open or closed to motorized use, it will influence which kinds of projects and activities will be considered in the future. The Plan includes maps that display proposed suitability of Forest lands for various types of use. Additional maps and other supporting documentation will be displayed on our web site ([www.fs.fed.us/r1/wmpz](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/wmpz)).

There are several ways you can access the Proposed Plan. You can open a CD version on your own computer and read or print all or parts of it. If you do not have convenient computer access, you can take the CD to most copy shops and have the Plan printed at a reasonable cost. You can access the entire Plan and accompanying maps on our web site at [www.fs.fed.us/r1/wmpz/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/wmpz/). There will also be paper copies of the Plan available for you to read at District Ranger and Forest Supervisor offices.

We encourage your comments on all aspects of the plan; however, the accompanying document titled, "Guidelines for Providing Effective Comments" will help you focus your review and comments. While we will read all comments, the ones we will consider at this time are those that focus directly on subject matter related to the Proposed Plan. We will not consider comments relating to laws, policies or other matters that are beyond our planning authority. Comments on site-specific decisions (which can only be made through detailed analysis and public involvement after the guiding Land Management Plan framework has been approved) are also beyond our planning authority and will not be considered. Please consider using the document, "Guidelines for Providing Effective Comments", to focus your comments.

The comment period will end 90 days after publication of legal notices of the Proposed Plan's availability for review, in the Ravalli Republic, Daily Interlake or Missoulian newspaper. The address for submitting comments is listed in "Guidelines for Providing Effective Comments". We will also hold public meetings during the comment period. Dates, times and locations of public meetings are posted on our web site, and will be announced in local newspapers. After the comment period, we will use your feedback to help refine the final plan that will be approved by the Forest Supervisor.

The information we have received over the last several years from members of the general public, from participants in local community working groups, from other governments and



agencies, and from our own employees has played a major role in shaping this Proposed Plan. The comments you provide us over the next few months will play an equally important role in refining the Proposed Plan to arrive at a Final Plan. We will read each comment and those that are within the scope of this strategic planning process will be carefully considered as we modify each of the plan components.

The new planning regulations adopted in 2005 have resulted in a different format for Forest Land Management Plans than has been used in the past. The introduction to the plan describes how the plan components work together to provide a guiding framework for program planning and project decisions. We strongly encourage you to carefully read the introduction to better understand the plan components.

And finally, my sincerest thanks for your time and effort to help us develop the best possible Land Management Plan for the Flathead National Forest.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Barbouletos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Catherine Barbouletos  
Forest Supervisor  
Flathead National Forest