

A QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT TRAVEL PLAN

October 12, 2005

The Lewis and Clark National Forest provided one CD of electronic letters and two boxes of hardcopy letters. These items contained 3,283 unique comments, and 33,937 form letters for a total of 37,220 submissions.

Of the total submissions, 277, or 0.74 percent, supported Alternative 1; 34, or 0.1 percent, supported Alternative 2; 36,457, or 97.95 percent supported Alternative 3; five, or less than 0.1 Percent, supported Alternative 4; and 16, or less than 0.1 percent, supported Alternative 5.

Of the 2,199 comments submitted by Montanans, 261, or 11.9 percent, supported Alternative 1; 26, or 1.2 percent, supported Alternative 2; 1664, or 75.7 percent, supported Alternative 3; four, or 0.18 percent, supported Alternative 4; and nine, or 0.41 percent, supported Alternative 5.

Of the 3,283 unique comments submitted, 146, or 4.4 percent supported Alternative 1; 34, or 1.0 percent, supported Alternative 2; 2,702, or 82.3 percent, supported Alternative 3; five, or 0.15 percent, supported Alternative 4; and 16, or 0.49 percent, supported Alternative 5.

Unique comments comprised 3,283, or 8.8 percent, of the total. Of the 2,199 Montanan submissions, however, 84 percent, or 1,846 were unique letters. A convincing majority, more than 80 percent, of those who took the time to write their own comments favored Alternative 3. Also, of the 37,220 total submissions, **98.7 percent** supported reduced motorized recreation. Of the 2,199 Montanan submissions, 81.0 percent supported reduced motorized recreation, while 19.0 percent supported motorized use at the same or at an increased level.

TABLES

Total Comments Submitted, By Alternative

| Total Comments Submitted | Alt 1 | Alt 2 | Alt 3 | Alt 4 | Alt 5 | Multiple Alts |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------------|
| 37220 | 277 | 34 | 36457 | 5 | 16 | 21 |
| Percentage | 0.74% | >0.1% | 97.95% | >0.1% | >0.1% | >0.1% |

| Total MT Comments Submitted | Alt 1 | Alt 2 | Alt 3 | Alt 4 | Alt 5 | Multiple Alts |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| 2199 | 261 | 26 | 1664 | 4 | 9 | 19 |
| Percentage | 11.9% | 1.2% | 75.7% | 0.18% | 0.41% | 0.87% |

Note: Because comments on specific alternatives do not represent all the submissions, adding the percentages together will not equal 100.

MORE

Total Unique Letters Submitted, By Alternative

| Total Comments Submitted Unique Letters | Alt 1 | Alt 2 | Alt 3 | Alt 4 | Alt 5 | Multiple Alts |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| 3283 | 146 | 34 | 2702 | 5 | 16 | 21 |
| Percentage | 4.4% | 1.0% | 82.3% | 0.15% | 0.49% | 0.64% |

| Total MT Comments Submitted Unique Letters | Alt 1 | Alt 2 | Alt 3 | Alt 4 | Alt 5 | Multiple Alts |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| 1846 | 132 | 26 | 1479 | 4 | 9 | 19 |
| Percentage | 7.2% | 1.4% | 80.1% | 0.22% | 0.49% | 1.0% |

Note: Because comments on specific alternatives do not represent all the submissions, adding the percentages together will not equal 100.