



File Code: 1950

Date: March 28, 2011

Dear Reader:

This letter is to inform you that the Kapka Butte Snopark Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been completed. This letter provides a brief summary of the project and information on the official 45-day public comment period. Copies of the DEIS are available on request at the address found at the end of this letter or the document may be viewed at the website which is also found at the end of this letter.

Project Location

The Kapka Snopark Project proposed parking area is located about 19 miles west of Bend, OR at the junction of Forest Roads 46 (Cascade Lakes Highway) and 45 (Sunriver Cutoff) on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. The proposed sno-park would be at 5,900 ft. in elevation and occupy approximately 7.5 acres.

Alternatives Considered

The proposed action (Alternative 2) responds to the need to provide additional safe, high elevation parking that will enhance a variety of winter recreation opportunities and provide access to over snow trail systems near the Cascade Lakes Highway corridor and the need for groomable Nordic ski trails that allow for skiers to recreate with dogs. Two additional alternatives were developed to respond to the key issue of addressing user conflict between motorized and non-motorized users in the Dutchman Flat and Dutchman Sno-park areas.

The following table summarizes the activities that would occur under each alternative.

Alternative	Proposed Activities				
	Paved Parking	Trail Access	Snowshoe Trails	Groomed Nordic Trails Open to Unharnessed Dogs	Dutchman Flat Area
	Gated in the off season	New Construction	New Construction	New Construction	Relocate existing activities
Alternative 1	No change	No change	No change	No Change	No Change
Alternative 2	Truck/trailer slots 70	0.2 mile snowmobile to connect to Trail #45	0.8 mile un-groomed trail to the top of Kapka Butte	7.2 miles (groomed, 6.2 miles non-motorized, 1.0	No Change



Alternative	Proposed Activities				
	Auto slots 40	0.6 mile Nordic trail to connect to Vista Butte Nordic trails		miles shared with motorized)	
Alternative 3	Truck/trailer slots 50	0.2 mile snowmobile to connect to Trail #45	none	None	Relocate snowmobile play area (16.6 acres) to north end of the flat
	Auto slots 0	0.6 mile Nordic trail to connect to Vista Butte Nordic trails			Reroute 0.5 miles of snowmobile trail #7 to east edge of the flat
Alternative 4	Truck/trailer slots 70	0.2 mile snowmobile to connect to Trail #45	0.8 mile un-groomed trail to the top of Kapka Butte	7.2 miles (groomed, 6.2 miles non-motorized, 1.0 miles shared with motorized)	Relocate snowmobile play area (16.6 acres) to north end of the flat
	Auto slots 40	0.6 mile Nordic trail to connect to Vista Butte Nordic trails			Reroute 0.5 miles of snowmobile trail #7 to east edge of the flat

Opportunity to Comment

A Notice of Availability for the 45-day public comment period for this project is expected to be placed in the Federal Register on April 15, 2011. The 45-day comment period will begin on the date of publication of this notice. Do not rely on any other source for the beginning date of the comment period. A legal notice will be published in *the Bulletin* newspaper following publication of the Notice of Availability.

The DEIS will also be placed on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests Website:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/projects/units/bendrock/index.shtml>

If you prefer a hardcopy of the document, please contact Beth Peer at (541) 383-4769, OR Amy Tinderholt at (541) 383-4708. Comments should be addressed to Shane Jeffries, District Ranger, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE 3rd Street, Suite A-262, Bend, Oregon, 97701.

Comments can also be faxed to (541) 383-4700, sent electronically to comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-bend-ftrock@fs.fed.us, or hand delivered to 1230 NE Third Street, Suite A-262, Bend, Oregon between 7:45 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

For email submission, the comments must be submitted as part of the actual email message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message,

verification of identity will be required. Emails submitted to email addresses other than the one listed above, or in formats other than those listed, or containing viruses, will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the commenter to confirm receipt of comments submitted by electronic mail. Please enter “Kapka Butte Snopark DEIS Comments” into the subject line of your email.

Comments, including attachments, must be postmarked or delivered within 45 days of the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Attachments received after the 45-day comment period will not be considered. The publication date in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the time for comment. Those wishing to comment on this project should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Anyone wishing to obtain additional information on the project or to provide comments over the phone should contact Amy Tinderholt, Project Leader at (541) 383-4708.

Sincerely,

/s/ A. Shane Jeffries
A. SHANE JEFFRIES
District Ranger