

Notice of Extension of Comment Period
Kapka Butte Snopark Project DEIS
Bend/Ft. Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest

Opportunity to Comment on DEIS

The opportunity to submit comments on the Draft EIS for the Kapka Butte Snopark Project has been extended to June 30, 2011. The Draft EIS contains the Forest Service's proposal to construct a snopark at Kapka Butte. The project area is located on the Deschutes National Forest, between Kapka Butte and the junction of the Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway (Road 46) and the Sunriver cutoff (Road 41) southwest of Bend, Oregon.

The DEIS analyzes four alternatives: 1) No Action; 2) the Proposed Action which includes providing a new parking lot with parking for 70 vehicles towing trailer and 40 smaller vehicles, 3 toilets, access to existing trails, and the addition of a new snowshoe trail on Kapka Butte and Nordic trails open to skiers with dogs; 3) Alternative 3 proposes a smaller parking lot, providing parking for 50 large vehicles (RVs) and those with trailers, 2 toilets, plus a relocation of the Dutchman Flat Snoplay area and Trail #7; and 4) Alternative 4 which is the same as the Proposed Action, with the addition of relocating the Dutchman Flat Snoplay area; and relocating Trail #7.

The Draft EIS is available for review at the Bend/Ft. Rock Ranger Station, 1230 NE 3rd St, Suite A-262, Bend, Oregon; it is also available on the Forest Service web site: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/centraloregon/projects>. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Amy Tinderholt, Project Leader, at the Bend/Ft. Rock Ranger Station; 541-383-4708.

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. Those who provide substantive comments during the comment period provided at 40 CFR 1503.1 are eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

How to Comment and Timeframe

A comment period began April 15, 2011. The timeframe for submitting comments is now extended to June 30, 2011. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted. The publication date of the NOA in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in a draft EIS. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Written comments must be submitted to: Shane Jeffries, District Ranger, at 1230 NE 3rd St., Suite A-262, Bend, Oregon, 97701. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 7:45 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone 541-383-4700 or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. Electronic

comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-bend-frock@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and substantive comments will have eligibility to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.