

# NEWS RELEASE

**Sawtooth National Forest  
2647 Kimberly Road East  
Twin Falls, ID 83301**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **FOREST SERVICE ISSUES DECISION ON BALD MOUNTAIN SUMMER BIKE TRAIL PROPOSAL**

**KETCHUM, IDAHO.....**Ketchum District Ranger Kurt Nelson has signed a decision authorizing Sun Valley Company to construct 11 miles of new summer mountain biking trails on the National Forest portion of the Bald Mountain Ski Area. The authorization will allow Sun Valley Company to begin construction of the first new trail in August 2013. Additional new trails are expected to be constructed over the next four to six years.

During a public scoping period that began on March 20, 2013 and concluded on April 18, 2013, 39 comments were sent to the Forest Service about the trail proposal. The Forest Service has developed a Response to Comments document that addresses the 20 major themes expressed during the scoping period. A 45-day appeal period begins with the publication of a legal notice announcing the decision in the *Idaho Mountain Express* for people and organizations that commented during the scoping period.

According to Nelson, "My decision to authorize construction of new mountain biking trails on Bald Mountain is based upon my belief that concentrating new "flow" trail construction within an existing ski area makes both economic and environmental sense. Sun Valley Company has been a good steward of Bald Mountain's natural resources over the years and has both the ability and desire to provide trail users with a well-built, well-maintained, high quality recreation experience. In addition, year-round resource-based recreation and summer facilities on Bald Mountain are consistent with national direction for ski resorts on National Forest lands, specifically the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011. I am confident that approval of the trail construction proposal is in the best interest of the public and fulfills an important role in meeting the Forest Service's recreational mandate."

The Decision Memo, a map of the proposed trails, and the Response to Comments document are available electronically at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/sawtooth/landmanagement/projects> and at the Ketchum Ranger Station, 206 Sun Valley Road, Ketchum, ID.