



**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** February 29, 2016

Dear Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies,

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNFs) and Lolo National Forest (LNF) are seeking comments on a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) that analyzes and discloses the potential social and environmental effects from implementation of the Lookout Pass Ski Area Expansion. Lookout Pass Ski and Recreation Area is located approximately 12 miles east of Wallace, Idaho, along Interstate 90 on the Idaho-Montana border, and it operates in accordance with the terms and conditions of a special-use permit, which is administered by the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service).

Public comments on the DEIS will be accepted for 45 days from publication of the notice of availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register* (the projected date of publication of the NOA is March 4, 2016). The NOA provides the sole means of calculating the close of the DEIS comment period. The entire DEIS can be reviewed and downloaded at the project website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=43757>. This website was created to provide the public with information about the project, including background details, critical steps in the process, and project updates. A comment form is included on the website, which allows the public to submit comments on the DEIS electronically.

If you wish to review a hardcopy version or compact disk (CD) of the DEIS, please contact Kerry Arneson, Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District NEPA Planner, at (208) 769-3021 (email [karneson@fs.fed.us](mailto:karneson@fs.fed.us)). Hardcopies and CDs will be available at the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District's Fernan Office in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Silver Valley Office in Smelterville, Idaho, and at the Superior Ranger District Office in Superior, Montana.

The IPNFs and LNF also invite you to join us at scheduled public meetings to further understand and to discuss the proposed project. The following are the scheduled locations, dates, and times for the public meetings:

- **March 22, 2016 in De Borgia, MT:** Black Diamond Ranch, 120 De Borgia Haugan Frontage Road, 5–7 PM
- **March 23, 2016 in Wallace, ID:** Wallace Inn, 100 Front Street, 5–7 PM
- **March 24, 2016 in Coeur d'Alene, ID:** Coeur d'Alene Forest Supervisors Office, 3815 Schreiber Way, 5–7 PM

The meetings will include a brief project presentation that will begin at 5:00 PM, followed by an open house. Representatives from the Forest Service will be on hand to provide information and to answer questions.

Written comments should be submitted by mail to SWCA Environmental Consultants, 1220 SW Morrison St., Suite 700, Portland, OR 97205; comments can also be hand delivered at the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District's Fernan or Silver Valley Offices, or at the Superior Ranger District Office during standard business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The Forest Service encourages the public to use the project website and submit comments online. Electronic comments can also be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to [comments-northern-idpanhandle-coeur-dalene@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-idpanhandle-coeur-dalene@fs.fed.us). For objection eligibility, comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.



If you choose to comment, please include 1) your name, address, telephone number, and organization represented (if applicable); 2) title of the DEIS upon which you are commenting (Lookout Pass Ski Area Expansion); and 3) specific facts or comments regarding the proposed project or activity, along with supporting reasons. Please be as specific as possible. Your comments will be considered before the release of a final EIS (FEIS) and any decision for the project. Notification of the decision document availability will be mailed to those individuals or groups who submit comments on the DEIS, those who submitted comments during the initial scoping period, and to those requesting notification.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this important project, and I look forward to your comments and to discussing this in person at our public meetings. If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Arneson, Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District NEPA Planner, at (208) 769-3021 (email [karneson@fs.fed.us](mailto:karneson@fs.fed.us)).

Sincerely,



*Mary*

MARY FARNSWORTH

Forest Supervisor

