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(Neb.)-Forest Service Reviewing Travel Management At Bessey Ranger District

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/13/2013 07:36 AM

(HALSEY)-The U.S. Forest Service released scoping documents Tuesday regarding plans to advance Travel Management for the McKelvie National Forest and the Bessey Ranger District. The idea is to provide additional motorized access for all users.

"We are excited to begin this process of responding to comments and requests we've received over the last several years. The project is aimed at improving motorized access in several areas of Bessey and McKelvie for general recreation, hunting and fishing," said Bessey district ranger Tim Buskirk. "We plan to hold several public meetings so folks can learn more about proposed changes, review maps and share their thoughts."

Buskirk emphasized that according to the process, comments must be received within 30 days after official public notification to be considered in the final analysis of the proposed action, which then allows standing for an appeal. This will be the only opportunity to comment on the project.

Planned public meetings will be held:

Thedford: March 19th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Brahmer's Steakhouse, 39359 Hwy 2, Thedford, NE, 69166

Grand Island: March 20th from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Howard Johnson Hotel Riverside, 3333 Ramada Rd, Grand Island, NE 68801

Valentine: March 21st from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Niobrara Lodge, 803 East Highway 20, Valentine, NE 69201

Alliance: March 28th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Alliance City Library, 1750 Sweetwater Ave, Alliance, NE 69301

Implementation of this project is anticipated in February 2014 and will include publication of a new Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

Interested persons may stop by the Bessey Ranger District office to view maps and information from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at 40637 River Loop near Halsey or call 308-533-2257. Information can also be viewed at www.fs.fed.us/r2/nebraska, or by contacting Stephani Rust at 308-432-0324 or sdrust@fs.fed.us.

--U.S. Forest Service