

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

Pike National Forest
Pikes Peak Ranger District
El Paso, Teller, and Douglas Counties, Colorado

South Rampart Travel Management Plan

The United States Forest Service (USFS) is seeking input on the South Rampart Travel Management Plan preliminary concepts at a public workshop. The purpose of the project is to determine which motorized roads and trails and non-motorized trails on USFS lands, within the planning area, are necessary to provide a diverse, functional and sustainable transportation system that balances resource protection, public safety, and current and anticipated future recreational demands, and public and administrative access needs.

In 2005, the USFS published a new rule on providing motor vehicle access to all National Forests. The rule, titled *Travel Management: Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use* (or 2005 Rule), rewrote the direction for motor vehicle use and requires a public process for changes.

In February of 2009, the Pike Peak Ranger District published their Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). This map identifies the designated system of roads and trails that allow motorized travel. Motorized travel is prohibited on or off routes not shown on the MVUM. This map is available on-line at www.fs.fed.us/R2/psicc/mvum_pprd09.pdf. Your comments are needed to make any further changes to the MVUM.

The project would provide the USFS with critical information to revise the Motor Vehicle Use Map and further guide management decisions on the merits and risks of improving, relocating, building, or decommissioning travel routes and other facilities in the project area. A Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Decision is scheduled to be completed by mid-summer 2010. There will be additional opportunities for public comment during the Draft EA process and as specific alternatives are developed in the near future. Three sets of public meetings are planned.

The project area consists of 121,168 acres of USFS lands located north of Colorado Springs and east of Woodland Park and Highway 67 to the forest boundary and along the Interstate 25 corridor. This includes Rampart Range Road #300, Mount Herman Road #320, Rainbow Falls Motorized Trail System, several watersheds, and two 2001 Inventoried Roadless Areas.

A copy of the project description and map of the project area are available on the web page at www.fs.fed.us/R2/psicc/pp, at the bottom under related links; So. Rampart Travel Management Plan.

Interested parties are invited to learn more about the project at one of two public workshops. The workshops will have identical agendas. This is the second of 3 sets of public meetings that are scheduled. Public workshop objectives will be to:

- Provide information about the project and study area
- Communicate outcomes of previous public scoping (outreach) efforts
- Discuss preliminary project objectives that will be used to develop solutions for the project purpose and need
- Review and discuss preliminary concepts that provide a solution for the project objectives
- Work in small groups to identify potential road and trail networks
- Record public opinion about the information and ideas discussed

Public workshop locations and times:

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Workshop from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Woodland Park Middle School
600 E Kelly Road
Woodland Park, Colorado

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Workshop from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Leon Young Service Center (Colorado Springs Utilities)
Pikes Peak Room (2nd floor)
1521 Hancock Expressway
Colorado Springs, Colorado

To be added to the project email list or to provide written comments, send an email to: comment@southrampart.net, or via mail at: EDAW/AECOM, Attn: South Rampart TMP/EA, 240 E. Mountain Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80524

For additional information, please contact Frank M. Landis, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner, by email at: flandis@fs.fed.us, or by phone at 719-477-4203.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.