



## How to prepare comments:

While the thought of writing comments can seem intimidating, the importance of writing them cannot be overstated. Management is run by information and the management of Public Lands is no different. The public comment process allows everyone the opportunity to voice their concerns by providing informative and relevant comments. So then, what is a good comment? What can I do to make my comments more effective?

Often, when you sit down to write comments, it can be frustrating. You may not know the area well or you may have trouble voicing how you feel. Write down the knowledge that you have and compare it to information from resources that are available to you. There are many sites on the internet that are available including this one. Compile this information so that managers can understand how you feel about this area.

Do you visit this area often?

Does it have importance for your family?

Have you never been there but always wanted to go?

Are there uses for this area that others may not be aware of?

When starting to write be specific. Don't just say "I want all trails to be open ". Mention trails by name and why that trail has importance.

"I like trail A because it has a beautiful overlook that I have been going there for years ".

"My family has been riding trail B for over 20 years. It is one of our favorites ".

"Trail C gives access to a meadow that we love to look at when we have lunch ".

Sometimes you may feel that the information that is being presented is inaccurate. You have the right (and responsibility) to question that.

How was this presented information obtained?

Who obtained it?

Why don't you feel it's accurate?

What alternatives do you feel can be done?

What NEW information can you offer?

So, start writing! Put all your info together and get it out. Often you will find that once you start writing you have more to say than you thought you did at first. There is no big



secret to it, just write your information as clearly as you can and make yourself understood.

Remember, form letters that all say the same thing are generally put together and count as one comment. Your specific, well thought out comments carry as much weight as hundreds of form letters. Often, you will get short notice that comments are being accepted and you'll have a short time to act. Just do it ... you'll be glad you did!