

# **SOUTH BELTS TRAVEL PLAN**

## **New Conceptual Alternatives**

In response to public comment to the proposed action mailed in April of 2003, the South Belts Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) has developed two additional conceptual alternatives for public review. These following alternatives are specific to the South Belts area and are displayed on the attached maps.

Public comment, field reconnaissance, mapping, and analysis may result in changes to these maps as the IDT continues to further develop the three conceptual alternatives. In addition, single track trail riders (motorcyclists) could be accommodated as the concepts are further developed through discussion with the Forest Service and other Forest users to identify routes that would be most suitable as single track motorized trails. Following are brief descriptions of these conceptual alternatives:

### **Conceptual Alternative 3**

Conceptual Alternative 3 was developed in response to comments that the proposed action didn't allow for enough motorized access. This alternative does include seasonal restrictions to help mitigate some of the adverse impacts to wildlife habitat effectiveness.

If chosen for implementation, Conceptual Alternative 3 would address the following key issues:

- Forest Products removal including firewood gathering. Open routes would be available and closed routes would be periodically opened allowing the public access for firewood removal and to assist the agency in resource management by keeping roadbeds open.
- Mining access.
- Livestock management access through a combination of open routes and by permit on closed roads.
- Non-motorized Recreation.
- Motorized Recreation including loop trails with an emphasis on:
  - ATV trails
  - Four-wheel drive routes
  - Hunting season access including retrieval routes
  - Some dual use where appropriate to connect trails

### **Conceptual Alternative 4**

Conceptual Alternative 4 was developed in response to comments that the proposed action should be modified to emphasize non-motorized use and to enhance wildlife habitat.

If chosen for implementation, Conceptual Alternative 4 would address the following key issues:

- Emphasize non-motorized recreation in designated roadless areas
- Enhance wildlife security where feasible by closing specific motorized travel routes to reduce habitat fragmentation.
- Emphasize non-motorized opportunity while providing a network of motorized use including dual use for motorized recreation.
- Provide access via permit on closed roads for livestock management.
- Retain motorized routes to scenic vistas.
- Provide retrieval routes during hunting season.