

Legal Notices

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
USDA FOREST SERVICE,
UINTA NATIONAL FOREST
UTAH, WASATCH AND JUAB COUNTIES, UTAH
Competitive Recreational Events Project**

The Uinta National Forest proposes to approve issuance of Special Use Permits for several competitive recreation races on the Forest. The proposed races would be confined to existing Forest Service roads and trails on the Forest. The Forest has received several proposals for these types of events, and several have been permitted in the past. Current proposals include the Wasatch Adventure Race, Squaw Peak 50 Mile Trail Run, Terratrails Mt. Timpanogos 50K Run, Four Winds Adventure Race, Mt. Nebo Grind Bicycle Race, and Competitive Horse Ride. These events typically occur during the spring, summer, and fall each year. In the past these events have been analyzed separately, and routes often varied each year. The Forest Service is proposing to define a set of routes, prescribed conditions, and amount and timing of use for which permits for approved competitive recreational events would be limited to over the next few years. These events are needed because: (1) competitive recreational events are a valid use of National Forest System lands, (2) there is a substantial demand for competitive recreational events as evidenced by the large number of proposals and event participants, (3) there is a substantial demand from the public for competitive recreational events that provide a variety of physical challenges and traverse a variety of terrain and landscapes, and (4) National Forests, with cooperating adjacent land managers, can provide an adequate system of roads and trails for these events. This analysis will streamline permit processing, provide better customer service to event organizers, reduce our special uses administrative workload, and facilitate better evaluation of the impact of multiple events on the environment and other Forest users.

The Uinta National Forest is initiating an environmental analysis for the proposed action. The Forest Service encourages your substantive comments on this proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision. Comments should include the information required pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3), as published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2003. Your comments will be used to help prepare an environmental analysis of and make a decision on the proposed action and any alternatives.

To maintain eligibility for appeal, each individual, or, for an organization, an authorized representative, must submit substantive comments and must sign the comments or otherwise verify their identity.

Send substantive comments to the Responsible Official for this project, Peter W. Karp, Forest Supervisor, P.O. Box 1428, Provo, Utah, 84603; phone (801) 342-5100; FAX (801) 342-5144; or hand-deliver your comments to the Uinta National Forest Supervisor's Office located at 88 West 100 North, Provo, Utah, during normal business hours from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Email comments may be sent to comments-intermtn-uinta@fs.fed.us. The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection and will be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Additional information on the proposed action may be obtained by contacting Joe Rechsteiner, Forest Special Uses Manager, at the addresses and phone numbers listed previously.

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Start Date: 03/17/2004 End Date: 03/17/2004