



Box 12, Folder 7: Correspondence, Congressional (Ballenger-Gibbons), 20 December 1999. 1999

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1999

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United States
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Washington
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201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1500/1510

Date: DEC 20 1999

FILE

The Honorable Cass Ballenger
United States House of Representatives
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-3310

Dear Congressman Bass:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

The Forest Service is firmly committed to following the President's directive to develop a proposal that conserves roadless areas and their important values. We are developing such a proposal through a public and open process that will culminate in an agency rulemaking accompanied by an environmental impact statement. The initial opportunity for public involvement began on October 19, 1999, with the publication in the *Federal Register* of the Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement. Release of the Notice of Intent initiated a 60-day public scoping period, which will end on December 20, 1999.

We are only in the scoping phase of the National Environmental Policy Act. As you know, the scoping process is intended to engage all interested people in determining the scope of the proposed action, alternatives, and effects before the agency publishes a draft environmental impact statement and proposed rule. Through scoping, we are inviting the participation of all affected state, local, and tribal governments and all interested members of the public to identify the significant issues that should be analyzed in-depth in the environmental impact statement, and to identify those issues that should be eliminated from detailed study. Suggestions for alternative ways of addressing long-term protection for roadless areas are also being solicited during this period.

The issue of roadless area management is not new to the Forest Service. We have more than three decades of experience with public comment concerning roadless area management. We will build on the public comment received in the past, most recently in the form of more than 80,000 letters commenting on the recently promulgated interim suspension of road construction in roadless areas.



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The Honorable Cass Ballenger

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Although not required by law, we are holding scoping meetings at the national, regional, and local levels. National scoping meetings were held though mid-December. As a demonstration of our commitment to public involvement, we are also holding local public meetings on every national forest that contains inventoried roadless areas, although certain forests may decide to combine meetings. Certain forests are even holding multiple scoping meetings.

I have enclosed a list of the regional and forest meetings that we are holding. The comprehensive and extensive public effort will allow interested people, including those who live near a national forest and those who do not, a chance to help shape the debate, the alternatives, and the analysis that we conduct. We encourage all people, including those who do not attend the meetings, to submit written comments to the Forest Service at the following address:

USDA Forest Service - CAET
Attention: Roadless Area Project
Post Office Box 221090
Salt Lake City, Utah 84122

The upcoming draft environmental impact statement will outline specific alternatives and provide a detailed basis for discussion with the public about how roadless areas should be managed in the future. The Forest Service will provide another period for public comment and will host another series of meetings and public involvement opportunities upon release of the draft regulation and draft environmental impact statement next year. Documents will be accompanied by information and data that Congress and the American people need to understand the potential effects of the agency's draft proposal. Because this issue is of such interest to Congress, we will ensure that you and your staffs are provided an opportunity to receive regularly scheduled briefings as we move through the rulemaking process.

Thank you for this opportunity to address your concerns about the scoping process. I am sending an identical response to each of your colleagues who joined you in writing.

Sincerely,

Mike Dombeck
MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure: Schedule of National Forest Hosted Public Meetings by Region

Southern Region (Region 8)				
Administrative Unit	Meeting Date (1999)	Meeting Location	Meeting Time	Contact Person
Regional Office	November 30	Atlanta, Georgia Georgia International Convention Center 1902 Sullivan Road	6:30 to 9:30 p.m.	Bob Wilhelm (404) 347-5401
NF in Alabama	December 7	Andalusia, Alabama	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Rick Morgan (334) 832-4470
NF in Alabama	December 7	Brent, Alabama	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Rick Morgan (334) 832-4470
NF in Alabama	December 7	Heflin, Alabama	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Rick Morgan (334) 832-4470
NF in Alabama	December 7	Talladega, Alabama	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Rick Morgan (334) 832-4470
NF in Alabama	December 7	Tuskegee, Alabama	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Rick Morgan (334) 832-4470
NF in Alabama	December 7	Double Springs, Alabama	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Rick Morgan (334) 832-4470
NF in Florida	December 8	Gainesville, Florida Sheraton Hotel 2900 Southwest 13 Street	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Richard Shelfer (904) 942-9300
Caribbean NF	December 8	Caribbean National Forest, Catalina Service Center	5:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Ricardo Garcia (787) 888-1810
Cherokee NF	December 9	Cleveland, Tennessee Cleveland Community College	1:00 to 3:00 p.m.	Keith Sandifer (423) 576-9700
Cherokee NF	December 9	Cleveland, Tennessee Cleveland Community College	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Keith Sandifer (423) 576-9700
Chattahoochee – Oconee NF	December 13	Gainesville, Georgia Gainesville College	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	John Petrick (770) 536-0541
Ouachita NF	December 13	Broken Bow, Oklahoma Broken Bow Public Library	6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	Steve Cannell (501) 321-5202
Daniel Boone NF	December 13	Lexington, Kentucky Fayette County Extension Office	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.	Kevin Lawrence (606) 745-3100
Daniel Boone NF	December 13	Lexington, Kentucky Fayette County Extension Office	7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	Kevin Lawrence (606) 745-3100
George Washington – Jefferson NF	December 14	Roanoke, Virginia Supervisor's Office	6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	Ken Landgraf (540) 265-5100
NF in North Carolina	December 14	Ashville, North Carolina Southeastern Station	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Larry Hayden (704) 257-4200
Ozark – Saint Francis NF	December 14	Russellville, Arkansas	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Deryl Jevons (501) 968-2354
Francis Marion –	December 14	Columbia, South Carolina	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Robin Cooper

Sumter NF		Supervisor's Office 4931 Broad River Road		(803) 561-4000
Ouachita NF	December 16	Mount Ida, Arkansas Montgomery County Fairgrounds	6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	Steve Cannell (501) 321-5202
NF in Texas	December 16	Lufkin, Texas	7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	Betty Miner (409) 639-8501
NF in Mississippi	December 16	Jackson, Mississippi Crown Plaza Hotel	3:00 to 4:30 p.m.	Jeff Long (601) 965-4931 ext. 149
NF in Mississippi	December 16	Jackson, Mississippi Crown Plaza Hotel	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.	Jeff Long (601) 965-4931 ext. 149
Ozark – Saint Francis NF	December 16	Jasper, Arkansas	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Deryl Jevons (501) 968-2354

Eastern Region (Region 9)				
Administrative Unit	Meeting Date (1999)	Meeting Location	Meeting Time	Contact Person
Regional Office	November 16	Milwaukee, Wisconsin University of Wisconsin	5:30 to 9:00 p.m.	Tom Malecek (603) 536-1869
Chippewa – Superior NF	November 22	Grand Rapids, Minnesota	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Denise Dexter (218) 626-4300
Chippewa – Superior NF	November 22	Bloomington, Minnesota	6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Denise Dexter (218) 626-4300
Wayne NF	December 2	Athens, Ohio Ohio University Inn	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Bob Gianniny (740) 534-6500
Mark Twain NF	December 3	Rolla, Minnesota University of Minnesota - Rolla	7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	Laura Watts (573) 341-7471
Monongahela NF	December 4	Seneca Rocks, West Virginia Seneca Rocks Visitor Center	10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Richard Cook (304) 636-1800
Mark Twain NF	December 4	Rolla, Minnesota University of Minnesota - Rolla	12:00 to 1:30 p.m.	Laura Watts (573) 341-7471
Midewin Tallgrass Prairie NG	December 6	Wilmington, Illinois Midewin Administrative Site	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Marta Witt (815) 423-6370
Chequamegon – Nicolet NF	December 6	Crandon, Wisconsin Crandon High School	6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Mike Miller (715) 362-1343
Chequamegon – Nicolet NF	December 7	Park Falls, Wisconsin Park Falls Library	6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Mike Miller (715) 362-1343
Allegheny NF	December 7	Warren, Pennsylvania Warren Public Library	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Gary Kell (814) 723-5150
Hoosier NF	December 9	Martinsville, Indiana	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Regis Terney (812) 275-5987
Hoosier NF	December 9	Troy, Indiana	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Regis Terney (812) 275-5987
Ottawa NF	December 13	Ewen, Michigan	5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Bob Brenner (906) 932-1330
White Mountain NF	December 13	Concord, New Hampshire Holiday Inn Motel	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Wayne Millen (603) 466-2713
Green Mountain – Finger Lakes NF	December 15	Rutland, Vermont Howe Center	6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	Rob Clark (802) 362-2307
White Mountain NF	December 15	Gorham, New Hampshire Town and Country Motel Inn	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Wayne Millen (802) 466-2713
Hiawatha NF	December 16	Manistique, Michigan Manistique High School	4:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Dave Maerklein (906) 789-3301

Huron – Manistee NF	December 16	Cadillac, Michigan Bill Oliver Best Western Motel	6:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Jim Dimaio (231) 775-2421
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Alaska Region (Region 10)				
Administrative Unit	Meeting Date (1999)	Meeting Location	Meeting Time	Contact Person
Tongass NF	December 1	Thorne Bay, Alaska Bay Chalet	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	(907) 828-3304 or John Sherrod (907) 747-4329
Tongass NF	December 1	Petersburg, Alaska City Council Chambers	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	(907) 772-5900 or John Sherrod (907) 747-4329
Tongass NF	December 2	Kake, Alaska Kake Community Hall	4:00 to 7:00 p.m.	(907) 772-5949 or John Sherrod (907) 747-4329
Tongass NF	December 2	Sitka, Alaska Harrigan Centennial Building	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	(907) 747-4218 or John Sherrod (907) 747-4329
Tongass NF	December 2	Wrangell, Alaska Wranger Ranger District	4:00 to 8:00 p.m.	(907) 874-7556 or John Sherrod (907) 747-4329
Tongass NF	December 2	Ketchikan, Alaska SEAVC	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	(907) 228-4114 or John Sherrod (907) 747-4329
Chugach NF	December 2	Anchorage, Alaska University Conferencing Center 3700 Sharon Gangon Lane	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Chuck Fry (907) 271-2508
Chugach NF	December 2	Cordova, Alaska Cordova Ranger District	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Chuck Fry (907) 424-7661
Chugach NF	December 6	Girdwood, Alaska Glacier Ranger District	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Chuck Fry (907) 783-3242
Tongass NF	December 7	Hoonah, Alaska Hoonah Ranger District	4:00 to 6:00 p.m.	(907) 945-3631 or John Sherrod (907) 747-4329
Chugach NF	December 7	Seward, Alaska Seward Ranger District	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Chuck Fry (907) 224-3374
Tongass NF	December 9	Craig, Alaska City Council Chambers	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	(907) 826-1641 or John Sherrod (907) 747-4329

The Honorable Cass Ballenger

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Tongass NF	December 9	Yakutat, Alaska Yakutat District Office	1:00 to 3:00 p.m.	(907) 784-3359 or John Sherrod (907) 747-4329
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Date:

DEC 20 1999

FILE

The Honorable Bill Barrett
United States House of Representatives
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-2703

Dear Congressman Barrett:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

The Forest Service is firmly committed to following the President's directive to develop a proposal that conserves roadless areas and their important values. We are developing such a proposal through a public and open process that will culminate in an agency rulemaking accompanied by an environmental impact statement. The initial opportunity for public involvement began on October 19, 1999, with the publication in the *Federal Register* of the Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement. Release of the Notice of Intent initiated a 60-day public scoping period, which will end on December 20, 1999.

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Date: DEC 20 1999

FILE

The Honorable Charles F. Bass
United States House of Representatives
218 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-2902

Dear Congressman Bass:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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DEC 20 1999

FILE

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-1002

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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File Code: 1500/1510

Date: DEC 20 1999

FILE

The Honorable Allen Boyd
United States House of Representatives
107 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-0902

Dear Congressman Boyd:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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FILE

The Honorable Chris Cannon
United States House of Representatives
118 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-4403

Dear Congressman Cannon:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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Date:

DEC 20 1999

FILE

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States House of Representatives
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-1008

Dear Congressman Chambliss:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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FILE

The Honorable Helen Chenoweth-Hage
United States House of Representatives
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-1201

Dear Congresswoman Chenoweth-Hage:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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FILE

The Honorable Robert E. (Bud) Cramer, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-0105

Dear Congressman Cramer:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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The issue of roadless area management is not new to the Forest Service. We have more than three decades of experience with public comment concerning roadless area management. We will build on the public comment received in the past, most recently in the form of more than 80,000 letters commenting on the recently promulgated interim suspension of road construction in roadless areas.



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Washington
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File Code: 1500/1510

Date: DEC 20 1999

FILE

The Honorable Barbara Cubin
United States House of Representatives
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-5001

Dear Congresswoman Cubin:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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FILE

The Honorable Jay Dickey
United States House of Representatives
2453 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-0404

Dear Congressman Dickey:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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FILE

The Honorable John T. Doolittle
United States House of Representatives
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-0504

Dear Congressman Doolittle:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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Date: DEC 20 1999

FILE

The Honorable Jennifer Dunn
United States House of Representatives
432 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-4708

Dear Congresswoman Dunn:

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 1999, jointly signed by several of your colleagues, requesting a 120-day extension to the roadless areas rulemaking process. I share your belief that sufficient opportunity to comment on this important effort is essential to its success, but I do not believe that a 120-day extension of the specified public scoping period is necessary or useful. I would like to describe for you the efforts we are making to ensure that the American people have ample opportunity to offer their opinions.

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FILE

The Honorable Jim Gibbons
United States House of Representatives
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-2802

Dear Congressman Gibbons:

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