

PREFACE

Public participation has been an integral part of developing both the *Montana State Trails Plan* and the *Trails Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)*. Additionally, consultation has occurred with other trail managing agencies in Montana throughout the planning process. Without the active involvement of hundreds of members of the public, representatives from trail organizations and other non-profit organizations, and trail managers from a variety of agencies, the *Trails Plan* and *PEIS* would not have been possible.

The *Trails Plan* and *PEIS* were coordinated by Jeff Erickson and Bob Walker, out of the Helena Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Office. Considerable assistance was received from Jeff Copeland, who worked on the Plan and PEIS over several years in three different capacities—first as an intern, then a temporary employee, and finally as an independent consultant. Two other interns spent parts of their summers at FWP working on the Trails Plan—Bryan Smith and Kathleen Curd Rau.

In addition to the above, past and present members of the State Trails Advisory Committee (STAC), the Trails Plan/PEIS Technical Advisory Committee, and the FWP Internal Trails Advisory Committee played important review and comment roles. Members of the FWP Committee, in particular, spend many hours reviewing and discussing both the *PEIS* and *State Trails Plan*. Members of the FWP committee included:

 Lee Bastian: Regional Parks Manager, Missoula

- Ray Paige: Motorized Trail Program Coordinator, Helena
- Steve Gilbert: Non-Motorized Trail Program Coordinator, Helena
- John Ramsey: Enforcement Training Officer, Helena
- Heidi Youmans: Chief, Small Game Bureau, Helena
- Gayle Joslin: Region 3 Wildlife Biologist, Helena
- Dick Ellis: Regional Supervisor (retired), Billings
- Mark Lere: Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program, Helena
- Martha Williams: Legal Unit, Helena
- Rich Clough: Chief of Operations, Helena
- Jeff Erickson: Parks Program Planner, Helena
- Bob Walker: State Trails Program Coordinator, Helena

Many other FWP staff were involved in various phases of the planning process. Doug Monger, Parks Division Administrator, reviewed earlier drafts of both the *Trails Plan* and *PEIS*. Ken Soderberg, Jeffrey Tiberi, and many FWP regional staff members assisted with public involvement efforts. Chas Van Genderen offered good advice on process issues. Debbie Mcrae and Chine Strobel from the Helena Parks Office provided valuable editing and computer assistance.

Digital mapping for both the *Trails Plan* and *PEIS* were done by present and past members of FWP's Information Services Unit staff, including Janet Hess-Herbert, Angie Schmidt, Lydia Bailey, and Jeff Hutten. FWP's mapping efforts were assisted by





Kristina Gurrieri, Dave Highness, and Ed Madej from the Natural Resources Information System, part of the Montana State Library. Staff from the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research (ITRR) at the University of Montana helped with some of the initial trails inventory and survey efforts.

Also, special thanks, in particular, to the following Technical Advisory Committee members for their comments and ideas: Jack Potter (National Park Service, Glacier National Park); Wendell Beardsley (U.S. Forest Service, Retired Region 1 Trails Coordinator); Gary Garthwait (U.S. Forest Service, Former Acting Region 1 Trails Coordinator); John Favro (U.S. Forest Service, Region 1 Trails Coordinator); Charlie McKenna (U.S. Forest Service, Helena National Forest): and Darrell McDaniel (BLM, Recreation Planner, Butte Office). Many other people from various branches of government and non-profit organizations made contributions during the

planning process, as did a large number of interested trail users.

Finally, Ross Campbell, Straight Arrow Designs, did the layout and design of both the Plan and PEIS, under a tight timeline. Jay Lightbody and Mel Vetsch from FWP's Print Shop arranged the printing with their usual helpfulness. Thanks to everyone listed (and anyone inadvertently omitted) for the help!

Cover Photo Credits:

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