



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Inyo National Forest

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45-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS NOVEMBER 15th For MOTORIZED TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Interested Parties

The Inyo National Forest requests your comments on our Proposed Action for the Forest Motorized Travel Management project. A Notice of Intent, published in the Federal Register on October 1, 2007 starts a 45-day comment period, ending on November 15, 2007.

The Motorized Travel Management project, also referred to as “Route Designation”, is part of a national effort to designate motorized transportation systems on each national forest in the country. This effort is intended to provide a quality, sustainable system of roads and trails managed for public motorized use. More information about this larger effort can be found at the Region Five website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/

The existing non-system routes being proposed as roads and trails are typically native surface high-clearance roads, and are used by a wide variety of visitors who drive motorized vehicles to access an almost unlimited array of recreational opportunities... hiking, camping, climbing, skiing, sightseeing, photography, or to simply enjoy the experience of four-wheel drive touring, all-terrain vehicle or motorcycle riding in spectacular Inyo National Forest lands.

Teams of Inyo National Forest personnel, working with many members of the public, developed this proposed action by applying a “risk/benefit” style analysis to each non-system route that had been inventoried on the Forest during the past 4-5 years. National criteria were adapted to our local situation by Inyo National Forest staff and interested local citizens. The public provided a great deal of information about individual routes; and Forest specialists visited many of the routes to identify potential resource concerns as well as opportunities. Varying levels of information exist on the various routes, so your comments will provide additional helpful information.

We encourage you to get involved during this stage of the planning process. We know that many people have invested a lot of time in this already, but at this stage we are hoping you will give us your comments and feedback on our proposed system of routes, so that we can develop alternatives that will address your issues.

This proposed action is the first formal stage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for this project. It is our intent to publish a Draft Environmental Impact Statement



(DEIS) in spring 2008, which will incorporate your comments in analyzing a range of alternatives for a motorized transportation system. The DEIS will offer another opportunity for comment before we publish our Final EIS in fall of 2008. Your involvement at every stage can help form a quality and lasting motorized transportation system on the Inyo National Forest.

Comments or requests for more information may be submitted to the Travel Management Team at Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA, 93514 or via e-mail at comments-pacificsouthwest-inyo@fs.fed.us Using the provided comment form will be helpful when commenting on specific routes, however you may use any format to submit your comments.

Before you begin reviewing our proposed system of routes, please read the guidance below about how to best use the maps and other Proposed Action documents.

More information about the specifics of the process and our proposal is contained on the Forest's website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/projects/ohvroute5.shtml Feel free to contact us with your questions and clarifications. We also hope you'll bring questions to our public meetings in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes, and Ridgecrest, California. [See below for more information]. We encourage you to check our website frequently for updates on meetings and additional opportunities to meet with members of the Travel Management Team.

Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in this important project!

/s/ Marlene Finley

MARLENE FINLEY
Acting Forest Supervisor

Public Meetings			
Public meetings have been scheduled for the following dates:			
Date:	City	Location:	Address:
October 16	Bishop, CA	Catholic Church Hall	849 Home Street
October 18	Mammoth Lakes	Rodeway Inn, Mtn View Rm	164 Old Mammoth Road
October 23	Ridgecrest, CA	Kerr-McGee Community Ctr	100 W. Callifornia Ave

All meetings are scheduled from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.