



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lassen National Forest
Almanor Ranger District

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File Code: 1950
Date: August 30, 2016

To: SOPA Respondents and Other Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies

The Almanor Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest is initiating scoping for the Chips Creek Bridge Project. Enclosed is a copy of the Proposed Action, Purpose and Need, and Decision to be made. We are proposing to construct an engineered creek crossing in the form of a bridge across Chips Creek along the Pacific Crest Trail. The project is intended to provide a safe, sustainable crossing for both hikers and stock users along the trail.

I request your input as it relates to the proposed action and identification of any issues (point of discussion, debate, or dispute) about the anticipated effects from this proposed action. I also request that you respond in writing before September 20, 2016, so your comments may be considered as we move through the NEPA process with this project. Comments may be submitted to: Kathleen Nelson, District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, 900 E. Highway 36, P.O. Box 767, Chester, CA 96020-0767, (530) 258-2141, or by facimile to (530) 258-5194 during normal business hours. The Almanor Ranger District business hours are from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Electronic comments may be submitted to comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen-almanor@fs.fed.us with Subject: Chips Creek Bridge.

The Almanor Ranger District has made a preliminary assessment that this proposal falls within 36 CFR 220.6(e)(1) "Construction and Reconstruction of trails" which would exclude it from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Chapter 30). Categorically excluded projects are no longer subject to legal notice and comment and appeal procedures pursuant to Section 434 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and Section 8006(a)&(b) of the Agricultural Act (Farm Bill) of 2014.

A decision regarding this proposal is expected in November, 2016. Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process. For more information on the project, please contact Stacy Kronner, District Recreation Officer, by phone at (530) 258-5162.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN NELSON
District Ranger

Enclosure: Chips Creek Bridge Project scoping document

