

Chapter 4: Consultation and Coordination

The public involvement process for the travel management process was designed to be open, inclusive, and interactive and to involve many diverse interest groups, individuals, agencies, and Native American Tribes. The public involvement process began in 2004 and continues through 2010. Public and group meetings, open houses, presentations, newsletters, web updates, news releases/interviews with media and personal discussions were all used to maintain regular communication with those interested/affected by this project. In addition, throughout this multi-year process, hundreds upon hundreds of public questions and concerns were answered and discussed with the public by the ID Team and other employees via the phone, in face-to-face meetings, field reviews, and through electronic or hard mail. Over 5,000 individual email addresses have been included in TNF/RO travel management mailing lists to receive updates on this process.

Truckee Pilot Project _____

Initially titled the Route Designation process, the Forest Service began travel management with a 95,000 acre area near Truckee as a pilot. In the summer of 2004, the Forest Service began public involvement regarding the project. Public meetings were held in Nevada City (November 8, 2004) and Truckee (November 10, 2004) to share maps of the inventoried trails, routes, and roads and answer questions. The public was requested to review the maps of the inventoried trails or routes and to identify any missing or incorrectly identified routes. Approximately 80 people attended the two public meetings and many requested additional time to review the maps. Presentations were also made to a variety of interest groups in the Truckee and Nevada City areas including motorcycle, four-wheel drive, mountain bike, and environmental groups. A poster explaining the process and map for review were distributed to a variety of bicycle, motorcycle, and sporting goods stores in the Truckee, Reno, Nevada City and Grass Valley areas for display. An e-mail list was initiated to share progress and information about this project.

Public Involvement Expanded to the Entire Forest _____

Due to an early snowfall and public requests for more time to review the maps, the pilot project was delayed. The schedule for the Truckee pilot was subsequently combined with the rest of the Forest for a forest-wide travel management planning effort.

In 2005, maps of the existing roads, trails, areas, and routes were placed on the Forest website. Five additional public meetings were held during the summer to provide an overview of the planning process and to obtain public review of maps. Meetings were held in Downieville (August 24, 2005), Sierraville (August 30, 2005), Truckee (August 29, 2005), Nevada City (August 31, 2005) and Foresthill (August 26, 2005). Approximately 115 people attended these meetings. Seventeen individuals commented in writing on errors or omissions of ninety routes. Another newsletter was issued and sent out electronically to explain the process and encourage review of the on-line maps.

Identifying Important Trail Criteria _____

In 2006, an on-line survey was initiated to identify trail users preference for trails – both motorized and non-motorized. Over 800 people participated in this survey. The information obtained from this survey helped the Forest Service better understand what trail criteria was most important for motorized and non-motorized trail users.

Designing Public Involvement for Helping Develop Proposed Action _____

During the summer, 2006, a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail users provided suggestions on designing a public participation process that would be meaningful to the public in helping identify a starting point from which to build the “Proposed Action.” Approximately 20 individuals provided suggestions for this part of the public involvement process.

Workshops to Obtain Public Ideas on Proposed Action _____

In the fall, 2006, using the suggestions from the public on how to structure the public involvement, a series of six workshops were initiated to identify the routes and areas the public desired to be included in the “Proposed Action.” The topic of “mixed use” was also introduced during these meetings. At the first session of the 2-part series, workshops were held in Nevada City (Oct 19, 2006), Truckee (Oct 2, 2006) and Foresthill (Oct 26, 2006). At these meetings, participants broke into three groups to review three different geographical areas and to discuss which of the unauthorized routes should or should not become part of the proposal. Some of the groups continued to meet and/or to make field visits to review conditions on the ground. Later in the fall, at the second set of workshops, the sub-groups presented their information back to the entire group at sessions in Grass Valley (Nov 15, 2006), Truckee (Dec 5, 2006) and Foresthill (Dec 7, 2006). Groups shared their ideas and their various concerns with other group proposals. Roughly 300 people participated in these workshops. In early 2007, an e-mail update was issued sharing information from the workshops and the outcome. Slides showing the groups recommended trails were posted on the website.

Proposed Action and Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement _____

In April, 2007, the Forest Service completed the “Proposed Action and Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement” based on comments from the meetings held in the fall. Public Scoping began on April 11, 2007. Presentations to a variety of groups, phone calls, news releases, website postings and email updates were used to alert the public of the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Action. Public meetings were held in Truckee (April 18, 2007), in Foresthill (April 24, 2007) and in Grass Valley (April 26, 2007) to explain the Proposed Action. Over 3,500 comments were received during April and May.

Additional newsletters were e-mailed to the individuals on the mailing list explaining the process used for reviewing the public scoping comments and requesting feedback as to how the public would like to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (hard copy, on line, or via CD). In May 2008, a meeting with motorized and non-motorized participants was held to listen to their suggestions as to the design of public meetings during the release of the Draft EIS. Additionally, small business cards were developed for field going personnel to give to OHV riders and other recreationists encountered in the field which described this process and invited their participation.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement _____

In the fall, 2008, the public was notified that the Draft EIS would be available for review and that open houses/meetings would be held. On September 26, news releases and email updates were mailed along with hard-copies of the DEIS to those that requested them. The document and maps were available as a hard copy, a CD, or on the web.

Four open houses along with corresponding public meetings were held in: Nevada City (Oct 1, 2008), Sierraville (Oct 3, 2008), Truckee/Olympic Valley (Oct 7, 2008), and Auburn (Oct 9, 2008). Open houses were held in the afternoon with the public meeting in the evenings. The open houses allowed for one-on-one discussions and questions while the public meetings were designed to provide an overview of the DEIS and the process used in developing and assessing the alternatives. A question-and-answer session was held at the end of each presentation. Approximately 600 - 700 people attended the various public meetings and open houses. In addition, presentations were made to the Nevada, Placer, and Sierra County Boards of Supervisors and several interest groups as requested.

Although a two-month comment period was initially announced, it was expanded for an additional month based on public and elected official requests for a total of three months. The comment period ended December 26, 2008, but comments were accepted through December 29 due to a Presidential Proclamation to close the office on Friday, December 26.

Over 7,000 letters, emails, map packets and other supporting material were received. The Forest Service then began the process of reviewing submitted comments and suggestions. This process involved sorting and grouping similar comments. Several of the comments questioned some of the data in the DEIS. The ID Team then went back to older NEPA documents to verify road and trail status decisions. A review of these earlier decisions caused the Forest Service to revise the numbers in the analysis in regard to National Forest System roads and trails and unauthorized roads and trails. The IDTeam also reviewed the current status of roads and trails across private land and found that some of these did not have valid rights-of-ways which was also corrected in the analysis and will be displayed in the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement _____

A 45-day comment period will be provided after the release of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) in 2010.

Relations with American Indian Tribes _____

Throughout the Travel Management Project, comments were solicited from federally recognized and unacknowledged tribes, intertribal organizations, and individuals. The following is a summary of the communications to date with American Indian Tribes. The communications displayed in Table 4-1 are in addition to the regular letters/meetings/email updates for the general public.

Table 4-1. American Indian Tribes summary of communications

Who	When
T'si-Akim Maidu, Donald Ryberg; Washoe Tribal Council, Brian Wallace; United Auburn Indian Community, Jessica Taverres; Colfax-Todd Valley Consolidated Tribe, Richard Prout; Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation, Brigitte Zellner; Greenville Rancheria, Lorie Jaimes; California Indian Basketweavers Association, Sara Greensfelder, and Wadatkuht Band of the Northern Paiutes of the Honey Lake Valley, Harold Dixon.	March 15, 2005 (letters, e-mails, and phone calls)
United Auburn Indian Community, Yolanda Chavez of Environmental Services	April 26, 2007 (phone call)
Ms. Shannon Brawley, Executive Director, California Indian Basketmakers Association	April 13, 2007 (letter)
United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), Yolanda Chavez of Analytical Environmental Services	July 5, 2007 (phone call)
United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC)	July 10, 2007 (meeting)
Mike DeSpain, Greenville Rancheria Environmental Coordinator	May 4, 2007 (phone call)
Waldo Walker, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	March 18, 2008 (letter)
Jessica Tavares, United Auburn Indian Community	March 18, 2008 (letter)
Lavina Suehead, Colfax Todd Valley Consolidated Tribe	March 20, 2008 (letter)
Don Ryberg, T'si-Akim Maidu	March 20, 2008 (letter)
Bridget Zellner, Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation	March 20, 2008 (letter)
Darrel Cruz, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	May 27, 2008 (phone call)
Darrel Cruz, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	July 3, 2008
Lorie James and Mike DeSpain, Greenville Rancheria; Don Ryberg, T'si Akim Maidu; Waldo Walker, Washoe Tribal Council; United Auburn Indian Community; Lavina Suehead, Colfax-Todd Valley Consolidated Tribe; Brigitte Zellner, Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation; Harold Dixon, Wadatkaht Band of the Northern Paiutes of the Honey Lake Valley.	February 12 , 2009 (letter)

List of Preparers

The following is a list of contributors to this final environmental impact statement. Numerous other people have also contributed in many ways to this document.

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Keith Brown: Forest Recreation Planner, BS Natural Resource Econ, MS Recreation Planning, 12 years

Gary Chase: EIS Layout and Publication, AA Forest Technology, 36 years

Joe Chavez: Yuba River Ranger District Public Service Officer, BS Forestry Resources Management, 21 years

Jan Cutts: American River District Ranger, BS Anthropology, 18 years

Donna Day: Assistant Forest Archaeologist, BA Anthropology, 38 years

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