



File Code: 1950

Date: April 11, 2012

Interested Public

Dear Interested Public:

The Six Rivers National Forest requests your comments on the Smith River National Recreation Area Restoration and Motorized Travel Management project (referred to hereafter as the "Project"). The scoping packet, which includes the proposed action summary and maps, is available on the Forest's website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/srnf/srnra> for your review. The Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be published in the Federal Register on April 20, which will begin the 45-day scoping period, and is scheduled to end on June 5. The scoping period provides the public an opportunity, early in the planning process, to review and provide comment on the proposed action.

The purpose of the Project is to make limited changes to the National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) in order to: provide motorized access to dispersed recreation opportunities (camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, etc.); provide a diversity of motorized recreation opportunities; provide for administrative needs, and; reduce ecological and cultural resource risk and maintenance costs. In addition, inventoried unauthorized routes (UAR) that pose a risk to ecological resources will be restored to reduce risk to resources. The proposed action includes the following management actions: addition of unauthorized routes as roads and motorized trails to the NFTS; change in maintenance levels of existing NFTS roads; select seasonal gate closures; mixed-use or combined use of roads; decommissioning of NFTS roads, and; restoration of unauthorized routes.

Stay involved and learn more about the Project by attending a Public Scoping Workshop. Resource specialists will be available to discuss the project and answer your questions. Information on how to comment, and assistance reading maps, will also be provided. In response to public requests, the Forests will host a second public workshop located in Gasquet. Workshop locations and dates are as follows:

Wednesday, May 9, 5:30 - 7:30, The Lighthouse Inn, 681 HWY 101 South, Crescent City

Wednesday, May 23, 5:30 - 7:30, Mountain Elementary School, 55 Azalea Lane, Gasquet

The Scoping Packet is also available for viewing at the following Forest Service offices: Gasquet Ranger District, Highway 199, Gasquet; and the Supervisor's Office, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka; and at the main branch libraries of Del Norte County and Humboldt County. You may



also access the Scoping Packet from the Forest's website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/srnf/srnra>.

We appreciate the time many of you have already invested in this project, and encourage your continued involvement. At this stage we request your comments and feedback on the scoping packet, so that Alternatives to the Proposed Action can be developed that address your issues. Submit your comments on the proposed action, between April 20 and June 5, through one of the following ways.

- By **mail**. Address the Travel Management Team, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501;
- By **e-mail**. Acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) may be submitted to comments-pacificsouthwest-six-rivers@fs.fed.us. Please ensure that "Travel Management" occurs in the subject line.
- **On-Line**. Submit comments on-line at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/srnf/srnra/comment>

The scoping period is the first formal stage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Once the Alternatives to the proposed action are drafted, another public workshop will be held in the summer of 2012 to solicit public input and refine the alternatives. It is the Forest's intent to publish a Draft EIS in the fall of 2012, which will incorporate your comments in analyzing a range of alternatives for a motorized transportation system and restoration actions. The Draft EIS will offer another opportunity for comment before publishing the Final EIS in the spring of 2013. Your involvement at every stage will help form a quality motorized transportation system that addresses public and administrative needs and resource risks on the Smith River National Recreation Area.

If you have questions or would like more information please contact the Travel Management Team Leader at 707-441-3661 or by email at address noted above. Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tyrone Kelley
TYRONE KELLEY
Forest Supervisor