



File Code: 1950
Date: December 3, 2015

Dear Reviewer:

The Forest Service has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Forest-wide Unauthorized Route Decommissioning project, and we are asking you to review it and provide comments. This project was developed to address damage caused by unauthorized vehicle use throughout the Cleveland National Forest. Since scoping, the project purpose was expanded to also make minor adjustments to the National Forest Road and Trail Systems. The draft EA is available on the Cleveland National Forest's project webpage at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43836. Hard copies are available from the team leader, identified below.

To ensure adequate time for public review given the holiday season and the project scope, I am making the draft EA available for your review for two weeks prior to the start of the comment period. The comment period itself cannot be extended beyond 30 days, per 36 CFR 218. Comments received within 30 days of the publication of the legal notice in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* will be assured consideration in the next phase of project planning. Publication is anticipated on December 18, 2015.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection (40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21). The decision on this project will be subject to pre-decisional objection procedures pursuant to 36 CFR 218.

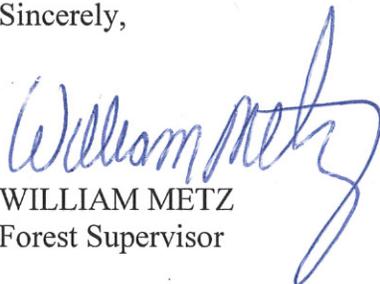
The draft EA provides analysis of the effects of two alternatives, which consist of the No Action alternative and the Proposed Action. We are particularly interested in hearing about any potential issues, which are defined as points of discussion, dispute, or debate about the effects of the Proposed Action. Your participation will help the interdisciplinary team develop effective, issue-driven alternatives and mitigations to the Proposed Action as needed.

We encourage electronic comments to comments-cleveland@fs.fed.us. Put the project name "Unauthorized Route Decommissioning" in the subject line; attachments may be in the following formats: plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc, .docx), or portable document format (.pdf).

Written comments can be submitted via fax to (858) 673-6192; mailed to William Metz, ATTN: Jeff Heys, Cleveland National Forest, 10845 Rancho Bernardo Rd. #200, San Diego, CA 92127; or hand-delivered during normal business hours (8am to 4:30pm Monday-Friday, excluding holidays). For more project information, contact team leader Jeff Heys at (858) 674-2959 or jaheys@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM METZ
Forest Supervisor

