Society, Culture and Economy

The Sierra National Forest Region (SNF Region) encompasses more area than the Sierra National Forest (SNF) itself. For the purposes of this EIS, the SNF Region consists of all or part of three California counties in which the SNF is located. These counties are Mariposa, Madera and Fresno. Information on Sierra National Forest Region's society, culture and economy is organized using these three counties.

For most of the SNF Region, people orient themselves toward the three county urban areas for work and to the SNF, the two National Parks (Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Canyon), foothill reservoirs and the central California coast for recreation activities.

Population and Demographics

Historical Background

On the western slope of the Sierra Nevada lies the 1.3 million acre SNF. Originally, the land was home to Native American Indians; here for thousands of years, the Miwok, Monos, Yokuts and other tribes lived in harmony with the land.

With the discovery of California gold in 1848, thousands of newcomers swarmed the foothill and mountains. Miners, lumbermen, stockmen and settlers flocked to the area, resulting in over grazing, indiscriminate logging and uncontrolled forest fires. The most powerful force that would shape the landscape of the forest was the development of hydroelectric generating facilities. Over the next 80 years 20 powerhouses and 11 reservoirs would be constructed producing electricity for two million homes annually.

The San Joaquin Valley was also becoming known as the Nation's breadbasket and water stored in the lakes and reservoirs was needed to irrigate its rich farmland. Valley residents were also seeking relief from the sweltering summer heat and looked to mountains for a place to escape and to recreate. Thanks to the automobile hikers, hunters, campers and anglers were coming to the mountains and forests in increasing numbers to use and enjoy their National Forest.

In the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided labor to build roads, trails, campgrounds and to fight forest fires on the SNF. During the 10 years the CCC program was in existence 16 bridges were constructed, 240 miles of roads and trails were built, including the John Muir Trail, 90 miles of fire breaks were added, 62 buildings and lookout towers were finished, 145 miles of telephone lines were strung, 70 campgrounds were improved, 85,000 trees were planted and thousands of hours were spent fighting forest fires.

In the 1930s not only was the Great Depression devastating the country but so were forest fires. During this decade, several large fires would scorch the SNF.

World War II brought dramatic changes to the SNF. Almost overnight the SNF had to shift to supporting the war effort. Our public forests were looked upon to provide wood, beef and tungsten, which were badly needed to support the war. The demand for lumber during the war brought the first chainsaws to the forest in 1943. With the added demand for beef to feed the soldiers, the SNF increased cattle grazing to provide for the war effort.

World War II came to an end and the Nation now faced the task of making the transition from war to peace. Visitors were once again out in the SNF; camping, fishing and enjoying the mountains. Four new reservoirs were under construction or just completed, including, Edison, Wishon, Courtight and Mammoth Pool Reservoirs. Across the SNF, sawmills were cutting away, providing lumber for the postwar housing boom. Thousands of surplus war Jeeps had been bought and the new owners were looking for places to use them. Many of them turned to the

National Forests and wanted to use them at will, going wherever they wanted. The SNF reacted in 1958 by prohibiting motorized cross-country vehicle travel.

The SNF is known for some of the most beautiful and rugged backcountry in the Sierra Nevada. The passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act designated the Minarets and John Muir Wildernesses. In the 1984 California Wilderness Act designated expanded acreage in the John Muir, Dinkey Lakes, Monarch and Ansel Adams Wildernesses.

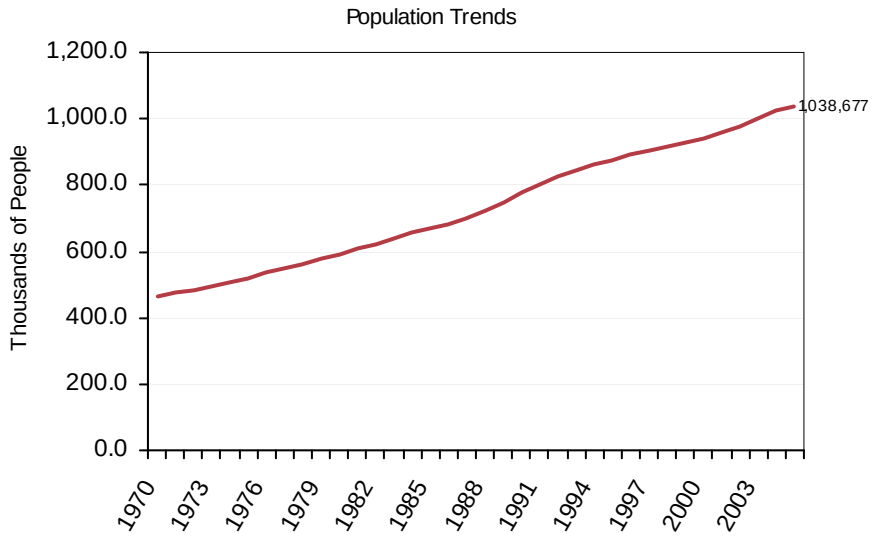
During 1990s the Forest Service adopted a new management philosophy known as Ecosystem Management. Ecosystem management was not a radical departure from the past, but a more holistic approach to managing our public lands. The California spotted owl issue would also frame this decade and in 1992 new guidelines were released that resulted in a dramatic decline in timber harvests. In 1998, the Forest Service launched one of its most extensive planning efforts, the Sierra Nevada Framework. This effort reinforced the need to address all components of the ecosystem in a balanced and scientific manner.

Current Population and Growth Trends

The 2004 population estimate for Mariposa County is 18,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006). From 1990 to 2000 the population in Mariposa County increased 19.8 percent, which is a faster rate than the State of California, which increased 13.6 percent for the same period. The population density in 2000 was 11.8 people per square mile, which is low compared to Madera County (57.6) and Fresno County (134.1). The demographic data for these three counties are aggregated in many of the following tables and descriptions.

The SNF Region counties contain an estimated one million people. From 1970 to 2005 population grew by 575,945 people, a 124 percent increase in population (Figure 4). Total Population in 2000 was 939,646 people, up 22 percent from 769,882 in 1990. Over the last 35 years population growth in SNF 3 County Aggregation has outpaced that of the State and the Nation. The population of these counties is changing in terms of numbers of people, age and ethnic composition, incomes, occupations and leisure activities.

Figure 4. Population Trend for Counties in the SNF Region (aggregate of all three counties)



The smallest proportion of the SNF Region's population lives in Mariposa County (about two percent of the population). Madera County is about 16 percent, with Fresno County having the largest population of the 3 with 81 percent of the population.

The population density of each county varies widely, with Mariposa having approximately 12 people per square mile (sq. mi.), Madera County 66 people per sq. mi. and Fresno County 147 people per sq. mi. (California Department of Finance, 2005).

California State agencies have projected population growth for the SNF Region's counties. In the next decade, most counties are expected to grow at a faster rate than they did between 1989 and 1998. Population increases may affect how communities develop. The Forest Service will need to respond to increasing needs for potable water, recreation, natural resource extraction and community fire protection.

Ethnicity

The distribution of ethnic groups in the SNF Region differs only slightly from the State of California averages (Table 51). The ethnic diversity of Madera and Fresno Counties is similar to that of the State of California. Mariposa County is less ethnically diverse with 86 percent of the population (in 2004) being in the ethnic class of "White, not Hispanic." The population percentage of Hispanics and American Indians in the SNF Region is greater than that of the State.

Table 51. Percent of SNF Region County Populations by Ethnicity, 2004

County	White, not Hispanic (percent)	Hispanic (percent)	Asian/ Pacific Islander (percent)	Black American (percent)	American Indian (percent)
Mariposa	86.2 %	7.1 %	0.8 %	0.6 %	3.1 %
Madera	46.7 %	45.9 %	1.3 %	3.0 %	1.4 %
Fresno	37.2 %	46.9 %	8.9 %	4.9 %	0.8 %
State Average	44.6 %	34.8 %	12.0 %	6.0 %	0.6 %

Age Distribution of the Population

In the SNF Region, the population has gotten older since 1990 (Table 52). The median age in 2000 was 30.4 years, up from 29.7 years in 1990. The largest age category is 5 to 9 years old (86,113 people or 9.2 percent of the total). The age group that has grown the fastest, as a share of total, is 50 to 54 years, up 20,041 people. Their share of total rose by 1.4 percent.

Table 52. Percent of Population of SNF Region Counties by Age Group

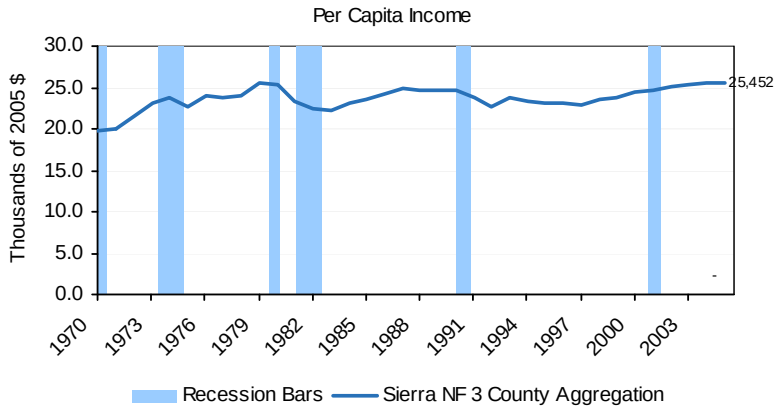
Population by Age							
	Under 20 years		40 - 54 (Baby Boom in 2000)		65 years and over		Median Age
	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	Share	
Total Population							
2000	328,298	35 %	177,642	19 %	95,745	10 %	30.4
1990	263,278	34 %	119,342	16 %	82,553	11 %	29.7
10 Yr. Change	65,020	1 %	58,300	3 %	13,192	-1 %	0.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990 and 2000

Per Capita Income

Figure 5 shows that per capita income for the three counties, adjusted for inflation, has risen from $19,700 in 1970 to $25,452 in 2005. In 2005, per capita income in SNF Three County Aggregation ($25,452) was lower than the State ($36,936) and the Nation ($34,471).

Figure 5. Per Capita Income



Employment and Income: Affected Environment

Table 53 illustrates how the distribution of local employment by sector compares to the Nation. Arts, entertainment and recreation sectors employ 1 percent of the workforce and retail trade employs 11 percent of the workforce. These are the two sectors most likely to be affected by decisions made in this document.

Table 53. Sector Analysis

	Study Area	U.S.
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	9 %	1 %
Educational services	11 %	9 %
Public administration	7 %	5 %
Wholesale trade	5 %	4 %
Health care and social assistance	12 %	11 %
Admin, support and waste management services	4 %	3 %
Other services (except public administration)	5 %	5 %
Accommodation and food services	6 %	6 %
Real estate and rental and leasing	2 %	2 %
Management of companies and enterprises	0 %	0 %
Utilities	1 %	1 %
Mining	0 %	0 %
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1 %	2 %
Transportation and warehousing	4 %	4 %
Retail trade	11 %	12 %
Construction	6 %	7 %
Information	2 %	3 %
Finance and insurance	4 %	5 %
Professional, scientific and technical services	3 %	6 %
Manufacturing	8 %	14 %

Source: Census 2000 SF3 Table P49.

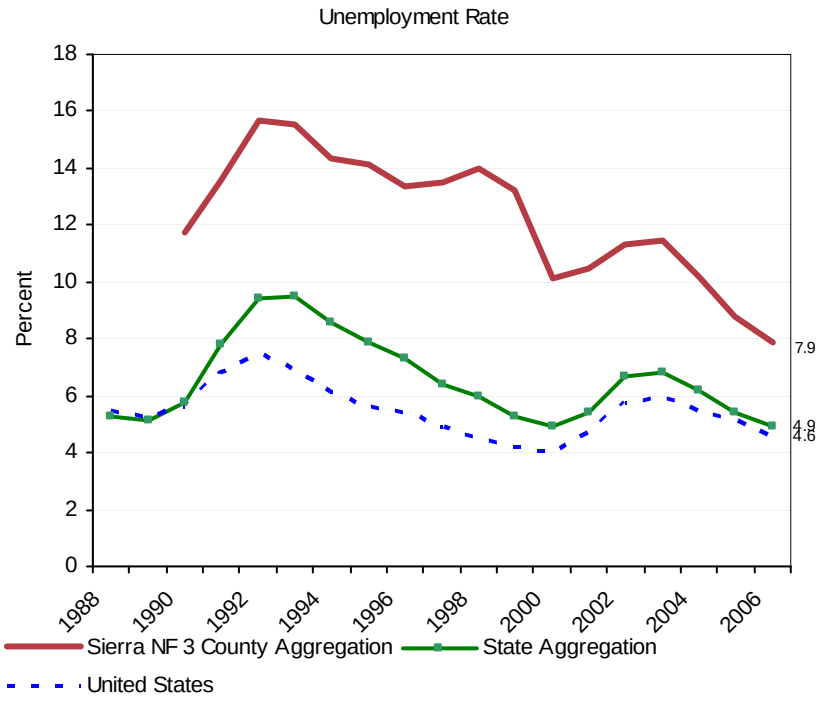
Figure 6 displays the number and type of firms operating in Fresno, Madera and Mariposa counties. Again, the arts, entertainment and recreation and retail trade (those firms that provide motor vehicle products) sectors are the two sectors most likely to be affected by decisions made in this document.

Figure 6. SNF 3 County Aggregation Firms by Industry in 2005 (NAICS)

Unemployment

In 2006, the unemployment rate was 7.9 percent, compared to 4.9 percent in the State and 4.6 percent in the Nation. Since 1990, the unemployment rate varied from a low of 7.9 percent in 2006 to a high of 15.6 percent in 1992 (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Unemployment Rate



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Seasonal Employment

Figure 8 illustrates the seasonal variation in the unemployment rate over the last 3 years. In 2006, the unemployment rate varied from a low of 6.2 percent in September 2006 to a high of 9.4 percent in February 2006.

Figure 8. Unemployment Rate Seasonally

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment and Income: Environmental Consequences Common to All Analysis Units

Economic Impacts

The assessment of economic impacts attempts to identify potential effects that Forest Service management may have on local, county and regional economic systems and on people using the natural resources that the SNF provides. In particular, would changes in the use of the National Forest for recreation and the amount of change in the designation of forest roads and trails be large enough or significant enough to cause measurable economic changes? Is the economy of the local area diverse enough and robust enough that the proposed changes will be insignificant or will they be felt in very specific segments of the local economy?

National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM)

The National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program provides reliable information about recreation visitors to National Forest System lands at the National, regional and forest level. Information about the quantity and quality of recreation visits is required for National Forest plans, Executive Order 12862 (Setting Customer Service Standards) and implementation of the National Recreation Agenda. To improve public service, the Agency's Strategic and Annual Performance Plans require measuring trends in user satisfaction and use levels. NVUM information assists Congress, Forest Service leaders and program managers in making sound decisions that best serve the public and protect valuable natural resources by providing science based, reliable information about the type, quantity, quality and location of recreation use on public lands. The information collected is also important to external customers including State agencies and private industry. NVUM methodology and analysis is explained in detail in the research paper entitled "Forest Service National Visitor Use Monitoring Process: Research Method Documentation; English, Kocis, Zarnoch and Arnold; Southern Research Station (May 2002)."

The SNF participated in the NVUM project from October 2002 through September 2003 and again from October 2006 through September 2007. At the time of this analysis, the full data was not available from the 2007 NVUM for the SNF. The 2002 data estimated 1,871,540 National Forest visits on SNF; the 2007 data estimated approximately 500,000 fewer visits. The full SNF NVUM report is available on the Web through the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) Human Dimensions Module from the Forest Service (www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum) (USDA-FS 2008).

Table 54 presents participation rates by activity for the SNF during the NVUM survey period. The Total Activity Participation (percent) column of the table presents the participation rates by activity. Participation rates will exceed 100 percent since visitors can participate in multiple activities. The Percent as Main Activity column presents the participation rates in terms of primary activity.

Table 54. Activity Participation on Sierra National Forest

Activity	Activity Emphasis for Road and Trail Use	Total Activity Participation (percent) [1, 2]	Percent as Main Activity (percent) [3, 4]
Snowmobiling	Motorized	0.6	0.4
Driving for Pleasure	Motorized	10.3	1.2
OHV Use	Motorized	3.5	1.4
Other Motorized Activity	Motorized	0.6	0.1
Motorized Subtotal			**3.11**
Hiking / Walking	Non-motorized	40.7	6.7
Bicycling	Non-motorized	4.1	0.8
Other Non-motorized	Non-motorized	23.0	7.9
Cross-country Skiing	Non-motorized	3.4	2.7
Backpacking	Non-motorized	5.8	1.9
Horseback Riding	Non-motorized	0.8	0.3
Non-motorized Subtotal			**20.3**
Downhill Skiing	Other	10.5	9.8
Fishing	Other	22.6	8.2
Viewing Natural Features	Other	32.4	4.9
Relaxing	Other	43.3	11.3
Motorized Water Activities	Other	6.7	3.2
Hunting	Other	1.3	1.0
Non-motorized Water	Other	11.1	6.5
Developed Camping	Other	34.3	16.2
Primitive Camping	Other	2.2	0.2
Picnicking	Other	22.5	4.0
Viewing Wildlife	Other	26.6	0.3
Sightseeing	Other	0.0	0.0
No Activity Reported	Other	14.3	17.2
Resort Use	Other	5.3	0.8
Visiting Historic Sites	Other	6.9	0.3
Nature Study	Other	6.3	0.5
Gathering Forest Products	Other	4.9	0.4
Nature Center Activities	Other	3.8	0.0
Other Subtotal			**84.7**
Total			**108.1**

[1] Survey respondents could select multiple activities so this column may total more than 100 percent; [2] The number in this column is the percent of survey respondents who indicated participation in this activity; [3]Survey respondents were asked to select just one of their activities as their main reason for the forest visit. Some respondents selected more than one, so this column may total more than 100 percent; [4]The number in this column is the percent of survey respondents who indicated this activity was their main activity.
Source: USDA-FS 2008

The primary activity participation rates (Percent as Main Activity) displayed in Table 54 were used to estimate use by activity emphasis. The emphasis areas were grouped into those emphasizing non-motorized, motorized and other activities. Motorized activities were those that used motor vehicles on NFTS roads and trails. Non-motorized activities still used the forest's roads and trails, but on foot or by non-motorized transportation such as cross-country skis or bicycles. All other activities are all the other forest based activities measured by the NVUM survey that didn't utilize roads or trails to pursue their primary activity. Examples of "other" are

downhill skiing, motorized water activities, etc. Motor vehicles may have been used to reach a destination or participate in the activity, but it was not the primary emphasis of the visit.

Table 55 displays the number of visits for these activities. The number of visits is based on the primary purpose for the visit (Percent as Main Activity) displayed in Table 56 and the total number of visits of 1,871,540 reported in the SNF NVUM report. Users were determined to be either local or non-local based on the miles from the user's residence to the forest boundary. If the user reported living within 50 miles of the SNF boundary, they are considered local; if over 50 miles, they are considered non-local. It is critically important to distinguish between local and non-local spending as only non-locals bring new money and new economic stimulus into the local community. Local spending is already accounted for in the study area base data. It is impossible to predict how locals would have spent money if they didn't have local recreation opportunities on the National Forest, but it's a safe guess that much of that money would not have been lost to the local economy. People tend to substitute other local recreation activities or change the time or place for continuing the same activity rather than traveling long distances and incurring high costs to do the same activity. The table indicates the most popular non-motorized use is hiking/walking. The most popular motorized use is driving for pleasure.

Table 55. Number of Visits by Activity

	Use (Visits)				
	Non-local Day Use	Non-local Overnight	Local Day use	Local Overnight	Non-Primary
Non-motorized					
Hiking/Walking	4,444	8,622	40,826	3,181	2,592
Bicycling	494	959	4,543	354	288
Other Non-motorized	5,222	10,131	47,974	3,738	3,046
Cross-country Skiing	1,638	5,078	10,768	798	183
Backpacking	0	2,854	0	4,368	290
Horseback Riding	198	384	1,817	142	115
Motorized					
Snowmobiling	275	315	1,501	216	252
Driving for Pleasure	608	737	8,397	290	976
OHV Use	1,296	2,277	5,940	1,732	381
Other Motorized Activity	91	159	415	121	27
Other					
Fishing	7,796	14,790	33,748	6,237	2,700
Hunting	420	1,858	5,192	2,044	265
Viewing Wildlife	235	545	989	172	349
Motorized Water Activities	1,817	4,283	10,903	3,489	940
Non-motorized Water	473	684	6,297	255	807
Downhill Skiing	11,505	18,620	35,355	5,136	1,776
Developed Camping	1,274	44,058	1,869	41,603	6,767
Primitive Camping	0	311	0	475	32
Resort Use	There are no NVUM estimates for trip type segment shares for these activities				
Picnicking					
Viewing Natural Features					
Visiting Historic Sites					
Nature Center Activities					
Nature Study					
Relaxing					
Gathering Forest Products					
Sightseeing					
No Activity Reported					
Sub Total	**22,729**	**53,576**	**136,376**	**43,640**	**11,757**

Table 56 indicates that motorized day use expenditures are generally higher than for non-motorized activities, but non-local overnight visitors engaged in non-motorized activities generally expend more than non-local motorized users (except for snowmobiling). Snowmobilers spend the most per visit, especially non-local visitors.

Table 56. Expenditures by Activity

	Expenditures (money spent per visit)				
	Non-local Day Use	Non-local Overnight	Local Day use	Local Overnight	Non-Primary
Non-motorized					
Hiking/Walking	17.62	106.96	11.11	39.55	7.41
Bicycling	17.62	106.96	11.11	39.55	7.41
Other Non-motorized	17.62	106.96	11.11	39.55	7.41
Cross-country Skiing	18.93	119.64	14.78	87.39	13.60
Backpacking	0.00	19.09	0.00	24.10	0.00
Horseback Riding	17.62	106.96	11.11	39.55	7.41
Motorized					
Snowmobiling	49.09	128.80	29.57	68.93	28.33
Driving for Pleasure	17.62	66.54	13.33	42.73	10.00
OHV Use	28.57	64.80	19.00	48.50	14.62
Other Motorized Activity	28.57	64.80	19.00	48.50	14.62
Other					
Fishing	21.00	95.65	20.00	48.00	20.00
Hunting	38.10	116.32	30.00	79.47	25.50
Viewing Wildlife	20.80	82.59	10.80	53.75	10.00
Motorized Water Activities	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
Non-motorized Water	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
Downhill Skiing	36.36	117.93	25.24	89.13	27.89
Developed Camping	0.00	50.36	0.00	41.29	0.00
Primitive Camping	0.00	19.09	0.00	24.10	0.00
Resort Use	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
Picnicking	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
Viewing Natural Features	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
Visiting Historic Sites	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
Nature Center Activities	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
Nature Study	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
Relaxing	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
Gathering Forest Products	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
Sightseeing	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41
No Activity Reported	18.52	70.36	15.00	49.20	12.41

The employment and labor income effects stemming from current motorized and non-motorized activities occurring on the SNF were estimated. The economic effects of all other types of recreation combined on the SNF have also been reported for comparison purposes. Economic effects tied to motorized and non-motorized activities were estimated to address the economic impact issue tied directly to access and travel management. Also, the marginal economic effects (employment and labor income effects per 1,000 visits) of motorized and non-motorized use are provided. The marginal effects (also called “response coefficients”) are useful for performing sensitivity analyses of various management alternatives.

Economic Effects Analysis Procedures

Economic effects can be categorized as direct, indirect and induced. Direct effects are changes directly associated with spending by a recreation visitor. Indirect and induced effects are the multiplier effects resulting from subsequent rounds of spending in the local economy.

Input-output analysis was used to estimate the direct, indirect and induced employment and labor income effects stemming from motorized and non-motorized use. Input-output analysis (Hewings

1985) is a means of examining relationships within an economy both between businesses as well as between businesses and final consumers. It captures all monetary market transactions for consumption in a given time period. The resulting mathematical representation allows one to examine the effect of a change in one or several economic activities on an entire economy. This examination is called impact analysis. Input-output analysis requires the identification of an economic impact area. The economic area that surrounds the SNF used for this jobs and income analysis was Mariposa, Madera and Fresno Counties.

The IMPLAN Pro input-output modeling system and 2006 IMPLAN data (the most recent data available) were used to develop the input-output model for this analysis (IMPLAN® Professional 2004). IMPLAN (IMpact analysis for PLANning) translates changes in final demand for goods and services into resulting changes in economic effects, such as labor income and employment of the affected area's economy. For the economic impact area, employment and labor income estimates that were attributable to all current recreation use (wildlife and non-wildlife activities), motorized, non-motorized and other activities for the SNF were generated.

The expenditure and use information collected by the NVUM survey are crucial elements in the economic analysis. As reported earlier, the NVUM survey collects use and expenditure information for various activity types. The expenditure information is collected by twelve activity groups within four trip segments (non-local overnight trips, non-local day trips, local day trips and local overnight trips) (Stynes and White 2005, 2008). The reported spending for each of the spending categories is allocated to the appropriate industry within the IMPLAN model (the allocation process, also referred to as "bridging," was conducted by the USDA Forest Service, Planning Analysis Group in Fort Collins, CO). The bridged IMPLAN files were used to estimate economic effects (e.g., employment and labor income) related to changes in spending (i.e., changes in spending, technically referred to as changes in final demand, are caused by changes in use).

Estimated Economic Effects

Estimated economic effects (full and part-time jobs and labor income) are presented. Estimated economic effects are displayed in the following ways:

1. Direct and indirect and induced employment and labor income response coefficients by activity type (jobs and labor income per 1,000 visits); and
2. Estimated employment and labor income by motorized and non-motorized activity types.

Response Coefficients by Activity Type

Table 57 displays the estimated employment and labor income response coefficients (employment and labor income per 1,000 visits) by local and non-local activity types. The response coefficients indicate the number of full and part-time jobs and dollars of labor income per thousand visits by activity type. The response coefficients are useful in: 1) understanding the economic effects tied to a given use level; 2) understanding projected employment effects for various use scenarios (sensitivity analysis); and 3) understanding the differences in employment effects by activity type. The response coefficients displayed in Table 57 along with the visits presented in Table 57 were used to estimate the economic effects for local and non-local use by activity type.

Table 57 indicates the following: First, economic effects tied to local visitation generate lower employment and labor income effects. This is a result of local visitors spending less per visit in comparison to non-local visitors (see Table 56). Second, economic effects vary widely by motorized and non-motorized activity types. The lowest employment effect is tied to local hiking, walking, bicycling, other non-motorized recreation and horseback riding activities (Note: the

economic effects are identical for these categories since they share the same spending profile). Third, the largest economic effect is associated with non-local cross-country skiing, but is followed fairly closely by non-local snowmobiling. In general, economic effects vary by the amount of spending and by the type of activity, but it cannot be generalized that motorized or non-motorized activities contribute more or less to the local economy on a per visit basis. It is also important to be careful with the use of response coefficients. They reflect an economic structure that is a snapshot in time, that is, they are not applicable to visitation numbers that are dramatically different from current recreation levels. If recreation activities and/or visits were to change radically, there would be a structural shift in the economy as spending patterns changed and these response coefficients would no longer reflect underlying economic processes.

Table 57. Employment and Labor Income Response Coefficients by Activity Type

		Employment (Jobs per 1,000 Party-Trips)		Labor Income (2006 dollars) ($ per 1,000 Party-Trips)	
		Direct Effects	Indirect and Induced Effects	Direct Effects	Indirect and Induced Effects
Non-motorized Use					
Hiking/ Walking, Bicycling, Horseback Riding, Other Non-motorized	Local Day	0.170	0.075	$4,178	$2,817
	Local OVN	0.768	0.349	$19,511	$13,189
	NonLocal Day	0.386	0.156	$9,451	$5,681
	NonLocal OVN	2.506	1.055	$61,439	$39,436
	NP	0.170	0.075	$4,178	$2,817
Backpacking	Local Day	-	-	$0	$0
	Local OVN	0.695	0.355	$18,916	$13,646
	NonLocal Day	-	-	$0	$0
	NonLocal OVN	0.901	0.416	$24,645	$15,336
	NP	0.695	0.355	$18,916	$13,646
Motorized Use					
OHV Use	Local Day	0.291	0.134	$7,439	$5,052
	Local OVN	0.794	0.365	$20,021	$13,963
	NonLocal Day	0.457	0.210	$11,694	$7,942
	NonLocal OVN	1.323	0.609	$33,370	$23,273
	NP	0.291	0.134	$7,439	$5,052
Driving	Local Day	0.196	0.082	$4,691	$3,100
	Local OVN	1.136	0.445	$25,415	$16,797
	NonLocal Day	0.308	0.129	$7,378	$4,875
	NonLocal OVN	1.893	0.742	$42,365	$27,999
	NP	0.196	0.082	$4,691	$3,100
Snowmobile	Local Day	0.517	0.234	$13,251	$8,777
	Local OVN	2.056	0.820	$45,935	$31,043
	NonLocal Day	0.872	0.391	$22,089	$14,619
	NonLocal OVN	3.426	1.366	$76,562	$51,741
	NP	0.517	0.234	$13,251	$8,777
Cross-country Ski	Local Day	0.325	0.141	$7,537	$5,332
	Local OVN	2.133	0.880	$50,184	$33,092
	NonLocal Day	0.511	0.221	$11,839	$8,377
	NonLocal OVN	3.556	1.467	$83,646	$55,156
	NP	0.325	0.141	$7,537	$5,332
All Other Use					
	Local Day	0.276	0.135	$8,266	$4,841
	Local OVN	0.986	0.522	$33,684	$18,055
	NonLocal Day	2.028	0.956	$64,458	$32,324
	NonLocal OVN	1.995	0.748	$66,697	$26,014
All Other Activities	NP	0.276	0.135	$8,266	$4,841

All Other Activities includes Developed Camping, Primitive Camping, Resort Use, Picnicking, Viewing Natural Features, Visiting Historic Sites, Nature Center Activities, Nature Study, Relaxing, Fishing, Hunting, Motorized Water Activities, Non-motorized Water, Downhill Skiing, Gathering Forest Products, Viewing Wildlife, Sightseeing and No Activity Reported.

Motorized and Non-motorized Use

Table 58 displays the estimated employment and labor income effects for current use levels reported by NVUM for local and non-local non-motorized and motorized activities. Table 59 expresses these employment and labor income effects as a percent of total employment and income for each activity. In general, the estimated economic effects are a function of the number of visits and the dollars spent locally by the visitors. For example, non-local users typically spend more money per visit than local users. Also, activities that draw more users will be responsible for more economic activity in comparison to activities that draw fewer users, holding constant spending per visit. Given that the analysis is dependent on visitation and expenditure estimates, any changes to these estimates affect the estimated jobs and labor income.

Table 58 indicates that approximately 151 total average annual jobs in the three county area (direct, indirect and induced, full-time, temporary and part-time) and $4.4 million total labor income (direct, indirect and induced) are attributable to non-motorized visitation on the SNF. The two largest activities among those in the table are hiking/walking and cross-country skiing, together these account for about 53 percent of the jobs and 44 percent of the income generated from the activities analyzed. These activities account for about 80 jobs and provided $2.3 million in labor income to the three-county area.

Motorized activities were responsible for approximately 19 total jobs (direct, indirect and induced) and $500 thousand total labor income (direct, indirect and induced). The two largest motorized uses are OHV use and driving for pleasure. These two activities contribute about 4.4 percent of the jobs from the activities in the table and provide about 4.5 percent of the labor income. Together these two activities contribute 15 jobs and provide about $439 thousand in labor income to the area.

“All Other Activities” (see Table 55 for a list) are significant economic contributors for the activities studied. They provide 769 jobs or 82 percent of the jobs from the activities analyzed. Labor income is about $27 million or 84 percent of the income generated by these activities.

Table 58. Employment and Labor Income Effects by Activity Type

	Employment (full and part-time jobs)		Labor Income (2008 dollars)	
	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Direct	Indirect and Induced
Non-Motorized Use				
Backpacking - Local	3	2	85,531	61,701
Non-local	3	1	72,819	45,314
Hiking/Walking - Local	9	4	240,825	162,472
Non-local	23	10	591,807	378,094
Horseback Riding - Local	0	0	10,719	7,232
Non-local	1	0	26,342	16,829
Bicycling - Local	1	0	26,798	18,079
Non-local	3	1	65,854	42,073
Cross-country Skiing - Local	5	2	125,439	86,759
Non-local	19	8	459,729	304,114
Other Non-motorized - Local	11	5	282,987	190,917
Non-local	27	12	695,417	444,288
Total Non-motorized	106	45	$2,684,267	$1,757,871
Subtotal	**151**		**$4,442,137**	
Motorized Use				
OHV Use - Local	3.1	1.4	81,641.0	56,103
Non-local	3.6	1.7	94,342.6	65,510
Driving for Pleasure - Local	2.0	0.8	48,415	31,990
Non-local	1.6	0.6	36,960	24,426
Snowmobiling - Local	1.2	0.5	30,878	20,591
Non-local	1.3	0.5	31,259	21,037
Other Motorized Activity - Local	0.2	0.1	5,709	3,923
Non-local	0.3	0.1	6,597	4,581
Total Motorized	13	6	$335,802	$228,162
Subtotal	**19**		**$563,964**	
All Other Use				
All Other Activities - Local	165	85.02	5,567,399	3,082,234
Non-local	371	148	12,663,847	5,283,176
Total Other	536	233	$18,231,246	8,365,410
Subtotal	**769**		**$26,596,656**	
Grand Total	**655**	**284**	**21,251,314**	**10,351,442**
Grand subtotal	**939**		**31,602,757**	

Table 59 shows that about 16 percent of the jobs provided from these activities are from non-motorized use, 2 percent from motorized use and 82 percent from “Other Activities.” The contributions to labor income are 14 percent non-motorized use, 2 percent motorized use and 84 percent from “Other Activities.”

Table 59. Percent of Total Employment and Labor Income Effects by Activity Type

	Employment (Percent of Full and Part-time Jobs)		Labor Income (2008 dollars) Percent of Total Income	
	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Direct	Indirect and Induced
Non-Motorized Use				
Backpacking - Local	0.3 %	0.2 %	0.3 %	0.2 %
Non-local	0.3 %	0.1 %	0.2 %	0.1 %
Hiking/Walking - Local	1.0 %	0.4 %	0.8 %	0.5 %
Non-local	2.5 %	1.0 %	1.9 %	1.2 %
Horseback Riding - Local	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
Non-local	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.1 %	0.1 %
Bicycling - Local	0.1 %	0.0 %	0.1 %	0.1 %
Non-local	0.3 %	0.1 %	0.2 %	0.1 %
Cross-country Skiing - Local	0.6 %	0.2 %	0.4 %	0.3 %
Non-local	2.0 %	0.8 %	1.5 %	1.0 %
Other Non-motorized - Local	1.2 %	0.5 %	0.9 %	0.6 %
Non-local	2.9 %	1.2 %	2.2 %	1.4 %
Total Non-motorized	11.3 %	4.8 %	8.5 %	5.6 %
Motorized Use				
OHV Use - Local	0.3 %	0.2 %	0.3 %	0.2 %
Non-local	0.4 %	0.2 %	0.3 %	0.2 %
Driving for Pleasure - Local	0.2 %	0.1 %	0.2 %	0.1 %
Non-local	0.2 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.1 %
Snowmobiling - Local	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.1 %
Non-local	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.1 %
Other Motorized Activity - Local	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
Non-local	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
Total Motorized	1.4 %	0.6 %	1.1 %	0.7 %
All Other Use				
All Other Activities - Local	17.6 %	9.1 %	17.6 %	9.8 %
Non-local	39.5 %	15.8 %	40.1 %	16.7 %
Total Other	57.1 %	24.8 %	57.7 %	26.5 %
Totals	69.8 %	30.2 %	67.2 %	32.8 %
	100.0 %		100.0 %	

Table 60 and Table 61 show the relationship of jobs and income generated from all recreation activities studied compared to total jobs and income in the three county area. All of the recreation jobs together account for about 0.1 percent of the total jobs in the area and the income generated is about 0.05 percent of the total labor income in the area studied.

Table 60. Total Employment and Labor Income Effects

		Employment Effects (Full and Part Time Jobs)	Labor Income (2008 dollars)
Total Non-Motorized Use	Local	30.1	527,159.3
	NonLocal	75.8	1,230,711.2
Total Motorized Use	Local	6.5	112,607.8
	NonLocal	6.8	115,554.1
Total All Other Use	Local	165.3	3,082,233.8
	NonLocal	370.6	5,283,176.0
Total	Local	201.9	3,722,000.9
	NonLocal	453.2	6,629,441.3
Total for Area		655.1	10,351,442.2

Table 61. Percent of Total Area Employment and Total Area Labor Income Effects

		Employment Effects (Full and Part Time Jobs)	Labor Income (2008 dollars)
Total Non-Motorized Use	Local	0.009 %	0.006 %
	NonLocal	0.021 %	0.015 %
Total Motorized Use	Local	0.002 %	0.001 %
	NonLocal	0.002 %	0.001 %
Total All Other Use	Local	0.049 %	0.041 %
	NonLocal	0.101 %	0.087 %
	Total Use	0.186 %	0.153 %
Total for Area		**511,320**	**21,252,021,000**

Predictions about changes in recreational use that may occur on the SNF are difficult to make and would be highly speculative. The Forest Service believes that under all action alternatives, levels of use would be relatively static although the use patterns may change. For example, even though the overall number of available roads and trails is reduced in all of the action alternatives, the same levels of use would simply become more concentrated in those areas. However, motor vehicle use is already concentrated in many areas of the SNF at this time, so this effect may not be realized either during implementation; but at some point, some users would no longer attain the experience they desire and would likely seek other areas off-forest. The point at which this would occur is speculative.

Compared to the no action alternative (Alternative 1) elimination of cross-country travel to motorized use all other alternatives are likely to have some level of impact to the local economy. Yet, this effect, again, is nearly immeasurable in relationship to the overall economy in the area. Any potential effects would likely impact gas stations, convenience stores and other retail stores in local communities.

Roads and Trails Budget Projections

The road system was largely constructed as a component of timber sales. When the timber harvest was significant on the SNF, the roads were built, improved and maintained as part of the timber sale. Currently, most road work is funded by appropriated funds through the Congressionally approved budget. Special capital improvement funds and other earmarked funds improve roads within identified projects or areas.

Trail funding has historically been used to maintain trails located in designated wilderness areas. Motorized and non-motorized trails have received maintenance by several volunteer groups. The value of this service is noted in Table 62, but is not added to the sums per year. Motorized trail

maintenance is funded, in part, through State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Grants and Cooperative Agreements. Funding from grants and agreements is not consistent, due to changing criteria and available funds. The inconsistent funding has contributed to an increase in deferred maintenance for opportunities managed as motorized trails.

Table 62. Road and Trail Construction and Maintenance Budget

Fiscal Year	Roads Total[1]	Road Maintenance[2]	Trails Total[3]	OHV Grants Total[4]	OHV Routes Maintained
FY04	$652,000	$350,000	$87,000	$114,000	$18,000
FY05	$555,000	$300,000	$150,000	$216,000	$25,000
FY06	$675,000	$350,000	$118,000	-0-	-0-
FY07	$518,000	$345,000	$38,000	$243,000	$43,000
FY08	$501,000	$325,000	$143,000	Unknown until July 2009	
Additional source of maintenance: A number of trails have been adopted by OHV clubs who provide trail maintenance. The value for volunteers on Motorized trail and area maintenance ranges from $10,000 to $15,000.					

[1]*Roads Total* include the Congressional appropriated funds the SNF receives for the management, operation and maintenance of the SNF road system;
[2]Road Maintenance is the amount of the appropriated funds dedicated to actual road maintenance activities;
[3]Trails Total is the total appropriated funds received on the SNF. Total funds include earmarks for capital investment or are project specific and may not result in on-the-ground trail maintenance.
[4]OHV State of California grant funding for Operations and Maintenance, includes enforcement and trail maintenance

Appropriated funding has been uneven over the past 5 years and no prediction or trend is apparent. Appropriated funding alone is not adequate to sustain the system in the long run. If this funding does not increase in the future, the SNF will need to rely on outside funding sources, partnerships and volunteers to accomplish this work.

American Indian Rights and Interests: Affected Environment Common to All Analysis Units

Laws Pertaining to American Indian Tribes

Laws pertaining to the rights of Federally-recognized American Indian tribes acknowledge that these tribes have specific rights and interests, many unlike those accorded to other governments. Most American Indian lands in California are small. American Indians in California rely on Federal lands for exercising their interests and rights to access and use natural resources, cultural resources and ceremonial sites and to seek economic well-being (Reynolds 1996). An important distinction in U.S. law is that Federally-recognized American Indian tribes are not a special interest group; they are sovereign governments distinct from Federal and State governments. This legal standing confers government-to-government relations between the Federal Government and each Federally-recognized tribe. Powers that Federal laws do not expressly limit remain inherent powers of individual tribes. Reservations, Rancheria and Indian colonies all comprise “Indian Country” as defined in the 1948 Indian Country Statute. American Indian governments have jurisdiction and authority over resources on Indian Country lands. On lands outside Indian Country, rights reserved for tribal governments may include rights to hunt and fish; rights to gather traditional plants, mushrooms and lichens; and rights to water. Federal policy for tribes emphasizes self-determination and government-to-government relationships. Table 63 lists major laws that shape how the Federal government supports tribal self-determination interests and

government-to-government consultation. In addition, a long tradition of case law has defined reserved rights for American Indians, including water rights and trust responsibility of the Federal government, among others (Getches and others 1998).

Table 63. Federal Laws Relevant to American Indian Concerns Regarding National Forest Management

Law	Purpose
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969	Requires consideration of effects on cultural values and diversity.
American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, as amended in 1994	Protects Indian religious practices and access to sacred sites.
Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976	Coordinates with Indian tribes to inventory, plan and manage resources of value to Tribes.
National Historic Preservation Act of 1976	Accounts for impacts of management on prehistoric and historic sites.
Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended in 1992	Protects archeological resources and requires that affected tribes be notified if archeological studies might harm or destroy culturally or spiritually important sites.
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990	Requires consultation with tribes about disposition of Native American remains, funerary objects and other cultural relics.

American Indian groups exert influences at National, regional and local levels. For this EIS, their influence is most pronounced at the local level. The Forest Service consults with Federally-recognized tribes, non-recognized tribes organizations and individuals to comply with the laws displayed in Table 63.

There are five (5) Federally-recognized Indian tribes known to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) near the SNF:

1. Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians
2. Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians
3. North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians
4. Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians
5. Table Mountain Rancheria

There are (5) Tribes striving for Federal Recognition status:

1. North Fork Mono Tribe
2. American Indian Council of Mariposa County (Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation)
3. Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
4. Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government
5. Chaushilha Yokuts

American Indian people make up approximately one percent of the total population within the SNF Region.

Importance of National Forest Lands and Resources to American Indian People

Indian country is a complex pattern of reservations, Rancherias and allotments scattered throughout the Sierra Nevada. American Indian people most associated with the SNF lands live principally in the foothill communities of the west slope of the Sierra Nevada range. Some American Indian communities and individuals reside off the Rancherias while others live on allotments within National Forests administrative boundaries or near rural communities. Many American Indians have also migrated to nearby urban centers. The tribes discussed in this section continue to maintain their cultural identities while participating in many day-to-day social and economic activities of other communities.

Tribal concerns related to this EIS have been shared with the Forest Service at public and tribal meetings. Key tribal concerns include: road access and special lands and their associated activities.

Road Access

Many ceremonial locations, cemeteries, traditional gathering areas and archaeological sites are located in the National Forests. These areas contribute to the tribal community's way of life, their identity, their traditional practices and cohesiveness. While roads were not a traditional means of access to these sites they are essential for many now. Some Indian people have expressed concern about potential changes in roaded access to these sites. At the March and December 2008 tribal meeting some of the tribal representatives expressed agreement on managing motor vehicle access to certain areas on the forest (they wanted the access closed), as this unmanaged access was a negative impact on certain gathering areas and sacred sites.

Special Lands and Associated Activities

Many sacred areas are located in National Forests. Ceremonial activities are held in these areas. Occasionally, ceremonial activities are held with little notice to the Forest Service and, at other times, these activities are large gatherings attended by tribes and the general public. Some activities, particularly those of a religious nature, must be performed in specific settings or environments.

The designation of "sacred" lands is tribally based. According to some traditions, the Creator designated sacred lands. These lands are often situated in areas with unique and fixed geological features or other landscape attributes. Many American Indians consider major land alterations, such as clear cutting, road building or mining, on sacred lands to be disrespectful. Certain activities, such as bear hunting during traditional "Bear Dance Celebrations," are also considered disrespectful. At least two of these traditional gatherings are held on the SNF annually.

As more people visit and use National Forests, conflicts arise between tribal uses of culturally important areas and other uses of these same areas. The unique characteristics of culturally important areas attract many people for many different reasons. Some of these areas are currently experiencing increased recreational use that, at times, conflicts with tribal uses. In the past, some campgrounds were located on tribal sites and some roads were located on prehistoric and historic trails, further illustrating the critical need for local consultation between the Forest Service and American Indian tribes.

American Indian Rights and Interests: Environmental Consequences

Factors Used to Assess Environmental Consequences

Tribal input provided to the Forest Service during pre-scoping and scoping for this EIS identified a goal for providing appropriate access to sacred sites, ceremonial sites and traditional use areas. Access to traditional use areas is not presently quantifiable in the absence of baseline inventories. Therefore, the factor used to assess the consequences of the alternatives is the total miles of roads and trails open to wheeled motor vehicles and season of use. The Cultural Resources section of Chapter 3 describes consequences to traditional cultural resources such as archaeological sites, and historic sites.

Effects of the Alternatives on American Indian Rights and Interests

Of the action alternatives, Alternative 5 would result in the greatest total miles of roads and motorized trails on the SNF. Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 provide lower levels of access in terms of total miles. Access in Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 is reduced even further due to the implementation of wet weather seasonal restrictions. Alternative 3 would result in the fewest miles of motorized roads and trails and is therefore the alternative that responds to concerns brought up by American Indian interests.

Civil Rights Impact Analysis

Environmental justice speaks to concerns that costs of Federal decisions could fall disproportionately on people of a particular ethnic or cultural heritage group or on people with low incomes. Executive Order 12898 requires Federal agencies to identify where such disproportionate burdens might occur as the result of Federal actions. Social impact analysis identifies areas where health and well-being of people are at risk as the result of actions conducted in this EIS.

During development of the Notice of Intent and EIS some people expressed concerns relating to environmental justice and civil rights. These concerns have been shared with the Forest Service at public meetings, community workshops and tribal summits, as well as in writing. They are reflected in the significant issues described in Chapter 1. The main concerns related to environmental justice and civil rights identified was public safety (e.g. community fire risk and illegal drug operations).

Public Safety: Affected Environment Common to All Analysis Units

Small communities living within or near the SNF boundary (especially the community of El Portal) expressed concern that unmanaged motor vehicle access increased the risk of wildfire ignition and/or illegal drug operations. For the years 1999-2007 there have been 860 total wildfires on the SNF. It is documented that five percent of those were started by equipment (including construction, chainsaws and motor vehicles).

Over the past 10 years there have been approximately four wildfire starts per year due to illegal activity. Illegal activity includes but is not limited to: abandoned campfires, use of fire or equipment (e.g. chainsaw) in a fire restriction zone and illegal drug activity (K Mayer 2008).

Public Safety: Environmental Consequences Common to All Analysis Units

Alternative 3 would be the most limiting to legal motor vehicle access on the SNF. Implementation of this alternative is not likely to result in a statistically significant change the risk of wildfire starts due to the use of motor vehicles, as so few wildfires are attributable to motor vehicle use off existing designated roads and trails. Alternative 5 would allow the most legal motor vehicle access to the SNF and, again, it is not likely there would be any statistically significant change in the number of wildfire ignitions due to motor vehicle use as compared to the current condition where cross-country motorized use is allowed in most places on the forest.

It is unlikely that any of the alternatives would change the public safety risk of wildfires due to illegal drug activity because it is well documented that these activities will use roads/trails/routes and cross-county access without regard to whether the form of access is designated or not. The law enforcement practice to discover and investigate these sites is to use helicopter surveillance and on foot. Therefore there is no difference between the alternatives for this concern.

Barriers to Communication: Affected Environment Common to All Analysis Units

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandates that the Forest Service actively reach out to members of the public, including those people whom the Forest Service has historically underserved. There are several minority groups in the service area of the SNF. SNF policy and practice is to actively reach out to the full range of minority groups in the service area by providing press releases and engaging in interactive relationships.

Barriers to Communication: Environmental Consequences Common to All Analysis Units

In the public comment period between the appearance of the draft EIS and the final EIS, SNF staff will reach out to people from whom the Forest Service has not heard. Of particular interest to the Forest Service is inclusion of people who care about the SNF, but who may not see their role in shaping decision-making as significant or worthy.

To address these identified barriers to communication between the DEIS and the FEIS, the SNF has developed a plan utilizing existing programs and relationships to overcome barriers to communication among underserved communities.

Summary of Socio-Economic Effects

Alternative 1 – No Action

Direct, Indirect and Cumulative Effects

This alternative would not significantly reduce motorized access to dispersed recreation sites and motorized recreation opportunities. Season of use on existing NFTS would not change. Motorized freedom would have few limitations, resulting in conflict with non motorized users and private land. Natural resource impacts at many locations would not be acceptable. Route proliferation, impacts to private land and inability to enforce/restrict inappropriate use is likely to continue and increase over time. There would be no change to the overall or local economies within the SNF region. The Forest Service would remain responsible for maintaining existing motorized trails; however, the Forest Service would not be responsible for maintaining unauthorized routes developed due to no prohibition on motorized cross-country travel. While maintenance on unauthorized routes would not occur, actions to prevent further resource damage would be costly

and is not likely to be included in future appropriated budget or green sticker grant opportunities. This alternative does not comply with the Travel Management Rule.

When Alternative 1 is added to the other past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities on the SNF (Appendix E), the cumulative local social and economic effects are mixed and are not quantifiable. However, it is clear from the broader perspective of the Mission of the Forest Service that the cumulative effects of Alternative 1 would not be in compliance with the laws, regulations and policies the Forest Service is obliged to uphold.

Alternatives 2, 4 and 5

Direct, Indirect and Cumulative Effects

An action of this scale taken across the forest will most likely have short term effects on local users. In the short term, until the public becomes familiar with the use of the MVUM there may be confusion regarding allowed and prohibited use in some areas. The Forest Service estimates that under Alternatives 2, 4 and 5, the amount of motorized use would be relatively static although the use patterns may change. For example, even though the overall number of available roads and trails is reduced when compared to Alternative 1, the same amount of motorized use would become more concentrated on designated roads, trails and areas. At some point some motorized recreationists may seek other areas to recreate off the SNF. The point at which this would occur is speculative. Because motorized recreation is such a small percentage (3 percent) of the overall visitation to the SNF, there would little to no measurable change to the overall or local economies within the SNF region. The Forest Service would be responsible for maintaining the newly designated trails and areas, providing a safer and more environmentally compatible motorized trail system. Maintenance for the newly designated additions to the motorized trail system would be taken into account in the appropriated budget and would qualify for green sticker grant funds. These alternatives would comply with the Travel Management Rule.

When Alternatives 2, 4 an 5 are added to the other past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities on the SNF (Appendix E), the cumulative local social and economic effects are mixed and are not quantifiable.

Alternative 3

Direct, Indirect and Cumulative Effects

This alternative does not allow motorized recreation on any additional miles of motorized trail or motorized open area. Alternative 3 would apply some changes to the allowed open season for many NFTS roads and trails. The Forest Service believes that under Alternative 3, levels of motorized use would likely decrease but not be eliminated because a range of motorized opportunities would remain available with the existing NFTS. And, because motorized recreation is such a small percentage (3 percent) of the overall visitation to the SNF, there would little to no measurable change to the overall or local economies within the SNF region. The Forest Service would remain responsible for maintaining existing motorized trails.

When Alternative 3 is added to the other past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities on the SNF (Appendix E), the cumulative local social and economic effects are mixed and are not quantifiable.

Compliance with the Forest Plan (LRMP) and Other Direction

Civil Rights and Environmental Justice

Civil Rights

The Forest Service manual defines civil rights as "the legal rights of United States citizens to guaranteed equal protection under the law (USDA-FS Manual 1730)." The Forest Service is committed to equal treatment of all individuals and social groups in its management programs in providing services, opportunities and jobs.

There is no evidence that any of the alternatives would result in actual or projected violations of legal rights to equal protection under the law is foreseen for any individual or category of people.

Environmental Justice

A specific consideration of equity and fairness in resource decision-making is encompassed with the concerns of environmental justice. As required, by Executive Order 12898, all Federal actions must consider potentially disproportionate effects on minority or low-income communities. Principles for considering environmental justice are outlined in Environmental Justice Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act (Council on Environmental Quality 1997). Those principles were considered in this analysis. The Population and Demographics, Employment and Income and American Indian Rights and Interests portions of this chapter considered the demographics of the SNF Region.

There is no evidence to believe that minority or low-income groups will be adversely or disproportionately affected by the alternatives that have been presented in this document.