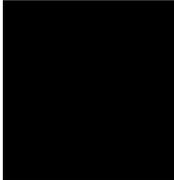




**Sierra National Forest
Motorized Travel Management
Update-July 10, 2009**



July 10, 2009

Dear Forest User:

It has been nearly two weeks since the public comment period closed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Motorized Travel Management and we wanted to update you on what the Sierra National Forest is working on.

We received nearly 5,000 comments from the public, elected officials and other state and federal agencies on the DEIS. Most of the comments received were form letters. Using a process called Content Analysis, the Forest Service documents, analyzes, and summarizes the comments and input. This process makes no attempt to treat comments as votes. In no way does Content Analysis attempt to sway decision makers toward the will of any majority. Content Analysis ensures that every comment is considered at some point in the decision process and is intended to facilitate decision-making by helping the planning team clarify, adjust, or incorporate information into the final decision.

All responses (i.e., letters, emails, faxes) are included in this analysis. In the content analysis process, each response is given a unique identifying number, which allows project personnel to link specific comments to original responses. Respondents' names and addresses are then entered into a database, enabling creation of a complete mailing list of all respondents. The database also tracks pertinent demographic information such as responses from special interest groups or Federal, state, tribal, county, and local governments.

All input is considered and reviewed. Comments are then categorized, grouped and coded with other similar comments. These comments are entered into a database and a summary analysis report is generated. The summary report tracks all coded input and allows project personnel to identify a wide range of public concerns and analyze the relationships between them in a narrative summary. Since the database arranges public comments by category and links them to the original response, project personnel have an excellent tool which aides them in writing responses to those comments.

It is estimated that the task of compiling the public comments will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Project personnel will then begin preparing responses to the public comments. Project personnel will also be working on completing a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The Sierra National Forest's goal is to release the FEIS and the Forest Supervisor's Record of Decision in late September.

Again, we appreciate all of your efforts in helping us to identify a system of roads and trails for motorized travel. Thank You.