



**U.S. Forest Service
Inyo National Forest
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News Release

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Travel Analysis Report Completed

The Inyo National Forest announces that the Travel Analysis Report (TAR) is available for review.

The report can be viewed by visiting:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3834316>

The Travel Analysis Process, or TAP, is required by the 2005 Travel Management Rule so that forests provide a safe, financially, and environmentally sustainable road system that can realistically be maintained. Due to increased use, aging infrastructure, and decreasing budgets, the forest cannot maintain all roads to standards for safety and environmental protection. TAP fulfills the requirement in Subpart A that states each forest uses a science-based roads analysis to help identify the minimum road system.

The TAR summarizes the results of the Inyo National Forest's Travel Analysis Process.

The Inyo National Forest, as well as other national forests in the country, is required to complete TAP to receive federally appropriated funds for its road system. The Inyo National Forest's TAR has been reviewed by the US Forest Service's regional and national offices.

The TAR does not produce a decision, but rather a set of recommendations. Therefore National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is not required and the process is not subject to objection. It will not close roads, add roads to the system, or otherwise change the current road system.

However, TAR will be used to inform future planning regarding management of the forest's roads. Any proposals regarding the forest's system roads will be subject to more site-specific analysis and NEPA.

Travel Analysis and Forest Plan Revision are separate regulations and are not interdependent; however, the TAR should be consistent with the direction in the forest plan.

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The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.