



Sustainable Recreation

Inyo National Forest

Frequently Asked Questions

Has the Inyo National Forest's sustainable recreation plan direction changed?

Yes. We revised the Inyo's plan direction for sustainable recreation in response to public comments we received on the [draft forest plan](#) (published May 2016). We heard considerable agreement that the previous recreation plan components were insufficient, difficult to understand, and unclear as to what effect the direction would have on the forest's resources and uses.

How has the plan direction changed?

We clarified how sustainable recreation will be balanced with other uses across the forest. Also we created a three-zoned method for managing recreation based on the amount of uses in an area. This method will provide flexibility to manage activities differently from one place to another and in response to resource needs. Additionally, the updated plan direction takes many of the "management approaches" that were suggested practices in the draft plan and builds them into guidelines in the forest plan.

What are the recreation management zones?

The three zones represent a continuum of recreation user densities: from a high-concentration of recreation activities to a low-density of recreation activities. The recreation management zones are:

- **Destination Recreation Area** – Provides the most developed recreation areas in the forest. The public will find high-densities of recreation users with a variety of activities available. These areas emphasize facilities such as roads, parking lots, and restrooms. The recreation opportunity spectrum settings here are primarily roaded natural with some semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized.
- **General Recreation Area** – Multiple uses (beyond recreation) are most evident here. These areas are working landscapes where fuelwood gathering, vegetation management, livestock grazing, electrical transmission infrastructure, geothermal, and mining may occur. Some landscapes may be or will be modified to meet social, economic and ecological objectives. The recreation opportunity spectrum settings are primarily rural, with a mix of semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized classes.
- **Challenging, Backroad Recreation Area** – Provides expanses of undeveloped landscapes suited for dispersed recreation. These are natural landscapes with few amenities, limited management, low visitor use, low density of visitors, and limited Forest Service presence. Motorized and non-motorized recreation is often challenging due to terrain and few roads and trails. The recreation

opportunity spectrum settings are semi-primitive motorized, semi-primitive non-motorized and roaded natural classes to support remote recreation with little development.

Does this plan direction address designated or recommended wilderness areas?

No. This plan direction only addresses recreation management. Guidance and direction for designated and recommended wilderness areas will be detailed elsewhere in the final forest plan.

How did public comment shape the updated plan direction?

The updated sustainable recreation plan direction incorporates many ideas and suggestions we received from the public. For instance, some public comments suggested a recreation zone to support sustainable use. This idea is the foundation for our three recreation zones; however, we took it a step further to combine the concept of “places” from the draft plan with a clear application of the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS). Other examples of how public comment influenced the direction include:

- Plan components developed based on suggestions from the public.
- Better explanation of how we will use ROS as a guide for recreation opportunities and experiences.
- Clearer and more cohesive plan direction for sustainable recreation.
- Consideration of other recreational uses, such as rock climbing.
- Addresses high-use areas where recreation will be managed more intensively.
- Establishes areas for low-density recreation that can accommodate motorized, mechanized and primitive transportation activities (horseback riding, walking, hiking, etc.) to support resource conservation.
- Better integration of settings, recreation management and resource management.

Where can I find more information about the recreation plan direction?

You may review supporting materials, including the plan components associated with the recreation direction, on-line: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r5/FPRPreview. If you have questions, please contact Deb Schweizer, Inyo National Forest Public Affairs Officer at 760-873-2427.

Why is the Forest Service sharing this plan direction? Is this a comment period?

This is not a formal comment period. We are sharing information about the sustainable recreation plan direction and other topics to provide you a preview of the Inyo National Forest’s land management plan. These previews provide a glimpse into plan development as it is happening. This process is information sharing, and we are not receiving formal comments at this time. The completed, final EIS and forest plan will be available for a 60-day objection period this fall.

When will the Inyo National Forest’s final environmental impact statement and forest plan be released?

Our goal is to publish these documents this fall. Between now and then, we will continue to provide updates on our progress, and will share information about the Inyo National Forest’s plan direction for aquatic and riparian resources, wild and scenic rivers, and species of conservation.

What is the status of the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests' plans?

As we announced in March 2017, the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests will continue to address public comments in a refinement of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and draft forest plans [published](#) in May 2016. Those forests will release a revised draft EIS and forest plans in early 2018 for public comment. In the coming months, we will share updates on our progress with these two forests as well.

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