

File Code: 1950

Date: September 17, 2019

Dear Interested Party,

As the Forest Supervisor of the Inyo National Forest, I am publishing the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the land management plan, under the provisions of the 2012 planning rule. This Final EIS will be published in the Federal Register initiating a 30-day review period. The Federal Register notice is expected to run on September 20th.

As the responsible official for this plan revision effort, I will sign my decision document (Record of Decision), which approves the revised land management plan, at the end of the final EIS review period. The new land management plan will go into effect 30 days after I sign the decision. While the updated land management plan is posted on the website for reference, it is not yet final as the decision is not yet final.

During the 30-day review period, the final EIS is available for review, but there are no more formal opportunities to comment on or object to this EIS. We will inform you when the Record of Decision is signed.

The final EIS and land management plan will be available on the project website the same day as the Federal Register at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/landmanagement/planning>. You may request hard copies or another format by contacting the Inyo National Forest Environmental Coordinator Erin Noesser at erin.noesser@usda.gov or (760)873-2449.

For those people who have previously requested hard copies, we plan on mailing all hard copy documents at the time of the decision, so that you will receive all documents, including the final EIS, land management plan, and Record of Decision in one package.

The draft Record of Decision and 2018 EIS were released in August 2018 and were subject to the objection process identified in 36 CFR Part 219 Subpart B (219.50 to 219.62). We received 22 objections from the public, which were reviewed by the Deputy Regional Forester, and received instructions that required updating of the final EIS, plan, and supporting documents. We have completed changes based on those instructions.

The modifications to the final EIS clarify effects and correct errors, as well as update analyses in the final EIS, including its appendices. This final EIS is the result of refining our analysis, guided by public comments we received throughout the seven-year planning process. The revised land management plan, once approved, will guide how we manage the Inyo National Forest for the next 10-15 years.

We will host an open house to share information about the land management plan and the next



steps in implementing the plan, on October 2, 2019, 5:00-6:30 pm at Cerro Coso Community College in Bishop, CA.

If you'd like more information about the planning process, contact Erin Noesser, at erin.noesser@usda.gov; 760-873-2449 or Deb Schweizer, Public Affairs Officer, 760-873-2427.

Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in the plan revision process for the Inyo National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy Randall-Parker". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Tammy Randall-Parker
Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest