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News Release

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U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region Postpones Public Meetings on Forest Plan Revisions

VALLEJO, Calif., March 27, 2014 – The U.S. Forest Service is postponing a series of public meetings scheduled for forest plan revisions on the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests. These meetings were originally scheduled for April 7, 8 and 10.

The meeting for the Inyo National Forest was scheduled for April 10.

The Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, which was previously scheduled to be published in early April, will be postponed as well. The Notice of Intent marks the beginning of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

Dates for the rescheduled meetings and Notice of Intent have not yet been set.

These meetings would have followed workshops the Forest Service hosted in January. At those workshops, the public provided feedback on the Forest Service's preliminary Need to Change, Draft Roles and Contributions, and example Desired Condition statements. Those comments are being considered as we update these documents and move forward with plan revision work.

"We have heard from the public and our partners that they need more time to understand and engage with us on the Need to Change," said Regional Forester Randy Moore. "By postponing these meetings we will provide more time to do so. We are committed to ensuring that the public remains engaged as we move forward with revising these three forest plans."

For more information regarding forest plan revisions and new meeting dates, visit the Pacific Southwest Region's planning website at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/landmanagement/planning>.

The Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo are three of eight national forests that were selected as "early adopters," meaning they will be the first to revise their land management plans using the new National Forest System Planning Rule, completed in 2012. The planning rule provides the framework for Forest Service land management plans across the nation.

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