



U.S. Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
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# News Release

For Immediate Release  
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**Forest Service announces the launch of over-snow vehicle use designation analysis on five forests**

**Vallejo, Calif., October 1, 2014.**—The Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) of the U.S. Forest Service will soon begin environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) based on Subpart C of the Travel Management Rule. Five national forests in California are undertaking Subpart C analysis to improve their management of over-snow vehicle use and to designate a system of over-snow vehicle trails, including groomed trails, to meet the terms of a settlement agreement between the Forest Service and Snowlands Network, Winter Wildlands Alliance, and Center for Biological Diversity.

The Forest Service will soon begin the process of preparing a separate environmental impact statement for each of the five forests: Lassen, Tahoe, Eldorado, Stanislaus, and Plumas National Forests. The environmental impact statements will be prepared as part of a staggered completion schedule (separated by several months for each of the five forests), starting with the Lassen National Forest. The Regional Forester's office is coordinating this effort. The Forest Supervisor on each of the five forests will be the responsible official and will sign the final decision for each forest.

Public participation is essential for the project's success and in helping identify issues and concerns to consider in the analysis. Before the Forest Service begins the environmental analysis, we encourage members of the public to attend upcoming open houses to learn more about this project, offer input for the upcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and share information. Four of the five forests are hosting open houses in November. The Tahoe National Forest will host meetings after the NEPA process begins, sometime after December 2014.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **Stanislaus National Forest:** Monday, November 3, in Sonora, Calif. at the Best Western Sonora Oaks, 19551 Hess Avenue, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Eldorado National Forest:** Tuesday, November 4, in Placerville, Calif. at the Best Western Placerville Inn, 6850 Green Leaf Drive, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Lassen National Forest:** Wednesday, November 5, in Susanville, Calif. at the Lassen National Forest Supervisors Office, 2550 Riverside Drive, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Plumas National Forest:** Thursday, November 6, in Quincy, Calif. at the Mineral Building on the Plumas County fairgrounds, 204 Fairgrounds Road, at 6:30 p.m.



Each forest will distribute a "Save-the-Date" flier before these scheduled meetings.

Additional public involvement opportunities will be available during the formal public scoping process - once the NEPA process begins.

Please visit our website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/travelmanagement> or contact Kathy Mick at the Regional Office, at 707-562-8859, for more information.

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