



File Code: 1950-3

Date: January 27, 2010

Dear Interested Party:

The Klamath National Forest Motorized Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is now available for public review. The FEIS is available on the Internet at the Klamath National Forest website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath/>.

The Motorized Travel Management FEIS describes the environmental effects of the No Action alternative and six action alternatives designed to implement the 2005 Travel Management Rule (36 CFR Part 212, Subpart B) by making changes to the National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) and prohibiting cross-country motorized travel on the Klamath National Forest (KNF). All six action alternatives would require a non-significant amendment to the Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) that would prohibit public motorized vehicle travel (with the exception of snowmobiles) off designated NFTS roads, trails and areas except as allowed by permit or other authorization.

The Preferred Alternative for the Klamath National Forest Motorized Travel Management project (Alternative 7) was designed to respond to the public comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). In addition to prohibition of public motorized vehicle travel (with the exception of snowmobiles) off designated NFTS roads, trails and areas, the Preferred Alternative proposes the following actions:

- Addition of 32 existing unauthorized routes (approximately 28 miles) to the NFTS as roads open to the public for motorized vehicle use by vehicle class and season of use.
- Addition of 192 existing unauthorized routes (approximately 25 miles) to the NFTS as roads open to the public for motorized vehicle use to access dispersed recreation opportunities (e.g. river access, dispersed camping, etc.) by vehicle class and season of use.
- Addition of 28 existing unauthorized routes (approximately 20.6 miles) to the NFTS as motorized trails open to the public for motorized vehicle use by vehicle class and season of use.
- Designation of two open riding areas (53 acres) where motorized vehicle use would be allowed anywhere within the delineated area boundaries.
- Authorization of non-highway legal vehicle use on 14 NFTS roads (approximately 131 miles) where such use is currently prohibited.
- Prohibition of non-highway legal vehicle use on 7 NFTS roads (approximately 8 miles) where such use is currently allowed.
- Authorization of public use of NFTS road 41S10, which is currently prohibited, to enhance motorized recreation by creating a loop opportunity.
- Conversion of 18 NFTS Maintenance Level (ML) 3 roads (approximately 130 miles) to ML 2 to allow both highway legal and non-highway legal vehicle use and reduce maintenance costs.



The Preferred Alternative (Alternative 7) would also require an additional non-significant amendment to the Klamath National Forest LRMP that would exempt 3 roads (13 miles) in the Butte Valley National Grassland from a season of use restriction for Swainson's hawks, currently required by LRMP standard 8-37.

The comment period for the FEIS will run for 30 days from the date the Notice of Availability (NOA) is published in the Federal Register. The expected date for publication of the NOA is January 29, 2010. Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the comment period of the FEIS. Comments on the FEIS should be specific and should address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

Comments may be submitted to Forest Supervisor Patricia Grantham, ATTN: Motorized Travel Management FEIS, Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097-9549. Comments may be also submitted via FAX to telephone number (530) 841-4571 or by hand delivery to the address shown above during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Electronic comments, in the acceptable formats, plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf) or Word (.doc), may be submitted to comments-pacificsouthwest-klamath@fs.fed.us. When commenting electronically, please indicate the project name, Motorized Travel Management, in the subject line.

Those who submit timely comments on the FEIS will have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Comments and evidence of timely submission must meet the specific content requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

The names and addresses of those who comment are part of the public record for this project, and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who only submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215.

Those who previously submitted timely comments on the DEIS for this project do not need to resubmit their comments during the FEIS comment period in order to have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215.

For further information or to request a copy of the KNF Motorized Travel Management FEIS, please contact Jan Ford at the above address or by calling (530) 841-4483.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,



PATRICIA A. GRANTHAM
Forest Supervisor