



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service
Lassen
National
Forest

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File Code: 2300/1920

Date: February 8, 2010

Dear Interested Parties:

I am pleased to announce that on February 9, 2010, the Lassen National Forest will make available our Record of Decision (ROD) for Motorized Travel Management. I want to thank the many committed individuals and organizations who have spent long hours participating in this effort. It was your dedication and thoughtful input that enabled me to select an alternative that will provide a baseline system of roads and trails. This transportation system will serve as a well-considered starting point for an on-going process of meeting the recreational and access needs of local citizens and visitors while protecting important resources.

My decision selects Modified Alternative 5 as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, which was released on December 18, 2009, for a 30-day public review period. After considering the comments we received during this final review period, I decided that Modified Alternative 5 (our Preferred Alternative) remained the best choice for meeting the goals of Motorized Travel Management within the context of the laws, policies, regulations, directives, agreements, and plans that guide management of the Forest. Our over-arching goal in this planning effort has been to develop a system of roads and trails that provide an array of opportunities for motorized access and recreation on national forests, while also protecting resources by limiting cross-country travel by motorized vehicles. I consider this decision a starting point and encourage the public to remain active in working with the staff of the Lassen National Forest to refine and improve our road system over time.

Also, included in the ROD Appendices are Errata to the FEIS and summarized responses to the comments we received during the 30-day review period.

The Notice of Decision has been submitted to the Paper of Record, the Lassen County Times, for publication February 9, 2010. This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to the regulation at 36 CFR 215. Appeals, including attachments, must be filed within 45 days of the publication date of this legal Notice of Decision. Details regarding the appeal process are provided in the ROD. Our Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for 2010 will be published once any appeals are resolved. This map will be the binding legal document that describes the official Lassen National Forest Transportation System and allowed uses on all roads and trails. It will be updated annually as our Transportation System is revised.

How to obtain copies of the documents:

There are three ways to receive copies of the Record of Decision: hardcopy, CD, or from our website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen>. Hardcopies or CDs will be provided upon request. CDs will include PDF files of the ROD (including Appendices), the FEIS and its Appendices, as well as all the maps. Many of the maps are multi-layered and viewing with Adobe Reader allows the viewer to click layers on and off. A map index and instructions for viewing the maps are also included. You may also request paper copies of maps, but these are expensive to reproduce, so



we ask that requests for printed maps be tailored to the specific maps desired. We only include one new map on this CD that was not on the CD produced when the FEIS was released in December 2009; that is a map of the Selected Alternative with one small change from our previous map of Modified Alternative 5 to include a seasonal closure on route 29N21Y to protect spotted owl nesting. This reflects the correction of an error in the FEIS and is explained in the Errata (Appendix B of the ROD).

Documents, CDs, or printed maps may be requested by emailing us at: ltmrd@fs.fed.us; calling Christopher O'Brien, Public Services Staff Officer, at (530) 252-6698, or Dave Pilz, Natural Resources Planner, at (530) 252-6659, or by writing to:

Travel Management
Lassen National Forest Supervisor's Office
2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130

CDs will be available, and documents and maps may be viewed at the Supervisor's Office and the following Ranger District offices:

Eagle Lake Ranger District
477-050 Eagle Lake Road
Susanville, CA 96130

Almanor Ranger District
900 East Highway 36
Chester, CA 96020

Hat Creek Ranger District
43225 East Highway 299
Fall River Mills, CA 96028

The Future

This decision is a very important first step in the process of further protecting natural resources and improving the Lassen National Forest Transportation System. Much remains to be accomplished; however, implementation will involve public education, mitigation of resource concerns, and monitoring of the results of my decision. It will also involve working one-on-one with our neighbors and dedicated forest users to address the many road-related issues that were too complex to resolve with this decision. Additionally, the Forest plans to subsequently address Subpart A of the Travel Management Rule and analyze how to make our transportation system more affordable. Accomplishing all these objectives in a timely and productive manner will necessarily involve close cooperation with you, the individuals, and organizations that care so dearly for the well-being and enjoyment of the Lassen National Forest. I sincerely appreciate your participation in this process and encourage you to stay involved in our on-going efforts to better serve you and protect your resources.

Sincerely,



KATHLEEN S. MORSE
Forest Supervisor