



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Sierra
National
Forest

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File Code: 1950-3

Date: September 10, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

This letter announces the release of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Kings River Project. The Purpose and Need for this project remains unchanged from the final EIS of 2006. This draft incorporates comments received in response to the previous Draft EIS (DEIS) and Final EIS (FEIS) for this project. The text has also been heavily reformatted to improve its readability. New information regarding the Pacific fisher, that became available after the FEIS was published, has been incorporated into the project design and analysis.

New information was generated from four sources:

- 1) *An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Southern Sierra Mixed-Conifer Forests* by North, M., P. Stine, K. O'Hara, W. Zielinski and S. Stephens; (in review)
- 2) *Final Report: Baseline Evaluation of Fisher Habitat and Population Status in the Southern Sierra Nevada* (Spencer 2007)
- 3) *Baseline evaluation of fisher habitat and population status, and effects of fire and fuels management on fishers in the southern Sierra Nevada* (Spencer et. al, 2008)
- 4) Recent unpublished study results from Kathryn Purcell, Craig Thompson, Pacific Southwest Experiment Station scientists who have been tracking radio collared fisher in and around the project area

Five alternatives, including no action, are considered in detail in the Draft SEIS. The preferred alternative is Alternative Four. Selection of this alternative allows a more cautious approach to the original proposed action while maintaining actions we view as essential and beneficial to overall forest health in the project area. Alternative Four allows ongoing research to continue without major losses of study time.

The Kings River Project Draft SEIS is available for your review at the following web site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/projects/>

If you would prefer either a compact disc or paper copy of this project please contact Ross Peckinpah, Kings River Project Coordinator, at PO Box 559, Prather, CA 93651; via telephone at (559) 855-5355; via FAX (559) 855-5375; or email: rpeckinpah@fs.fed.us

The opportunity to comment ends 45-days following the date of publication of the notice of availability in the Federal Register. Based on information provided by the Environmental Protection Agency the notice will appear on September 19, 2008. The Agency asks that those submitting comments on the Draft SEIS make them as specific as possible with references to page numbers and chapters of the document. Comments should address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).



Comments will be accepted via hardcopy mail, facsimile, and email. Comments should be sent to:

Ray Porter, District Ranger
KRP DSEIS Comments
High Sierra Ranger District
PO Box 559
Prather, CA 93651
Facsimile: 559-855-5375
Email: comments-pacificsouthwest-sierra@fs.fed.us

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and are available for public inspection. Comments, including names and addresses, may be published as part of the Final EIS. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review, or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request that submissions be withheld from the public record by showing how the FOIA permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The requester will be informed of the agencies' decision regarding the request for confidentiality. Where the request is denied, the comments will be returned to the requester and the requester will be notified that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Anonymous comments do not create standing or a record of participation. All submissions from organizations and business, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety. For further information on this Draft SEIS, contact Ross Peckinpah, Kings River Project Coordinator, at PO Box 559, Prather, CA 93651; via telephone at (559) 855-5355; or via facsimile at (559) 855-5375.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edward C. Cole
EDWARD C. COLE
Forest Supervisor