

**RIVERS TO RIDGES FOR FUN AND RENEWAL FRAMEWORK FOR
SUSTAINABLE RECREATION SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST**



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Executive Summary

The intent of the *Rivers to Ridges for Fun and Renewal Framework for Sustainable Recreation* is to provide identified and executable actions that will lead to a sustainable Recreation Program for the Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF) as well as the Ukonom Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest, administered by the SRNF.

Ten program goals were identified that support the ten focus areas identified in the *Framework for Sustainable Recreation* (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, 2010). These program goals include: a) “Enhance Communities,” b) “Know our Visitors, Community Stakeholders, and Other Recreation Providers,” c) “Develop a Sustainable Financial Foundation,” d) “Invest in Special Places,” e) “Restore and Adapt Recreation Settings,” f) “Implement ‘Green’ Operations,” g) “Provide the Right Information,” h) “Develop our Workforce,” i) “Forge Strategic Partnerships,” and j) “Promote Citizen Stewardship” (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, 2010, p. 5-8).

In support of the *USDA Strategic Plan, FY 2010-2015*, Goal 1, Objective 1.1 “Enhance Rural Prosperity” (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, 2010, p. 2) and the Community-Based Stewardship priority contained in the *FY 2012 Budget Overview* (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, n.d., p. 9), this framework puts forward improving communication with stakeholders and developing a strategy for Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River (WSR) management through the “Enhance Communities” goal.

The goal “Know our Visitors, Community Stakeholders, and Other Recreation Providers,” involves using the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) results and Thematic Analysis of Public Comments (Appendix B) to guide program function and providing opportunities for stakeholders to participate in management.

“Develop a Sustainable Financial Foundation” consists of implementing the program analysis model, integrating program operations, and developing a tourism strategy. The *Business Plan for the Six Rivers National Forest* (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest, February 2006), and the *Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) and 5-Year Program of Work for Six Rivers National Forest* (Six Rivers National Forest, June 22, 2008), will serve as source documents for the achievement of this goal.

To support the goal “Invest in Special Places” the forest will re-examine the investment priorities detailed in the Business Plan and develop a marketing/investment strategy that supports the Niche Emphasis and Recreation Settings identified in the RFA. Based upon the RFA, for instance, priority investments should occur in the “Rivers and Routes” recreation setting (Six Rivers National Forest, June 22, 2008, p. 3).

“Restore and Adapt Recreation Settings” involves trails and developed site management including site development and resource protection, education, and enforcement. This goal supports the *USDA Strategic Plan* Pillar five “Generate and Retain Green Jobs and Economic Benefits through Natural Resource and Recreation Programs” (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, n.d., p.

3), the *FY 2012 Budget Priority “Jobs to Assist Rural Communities”* (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, n.d., p. 11), the President’s “America’s Great Outdoors” initiative (America’s Great Outdoors, 2011), the region’s Ecological Restoration Strategic Priority (U.S. Forest Service, 2009), and the region’s Trees and Trails initiative (U.S. Forest Service, 2010).

The program goal “Implement ‘Green’ Operations” consists of adopting sustainability principles put forward by certification and education programs as well as knowledge-sharing. This goal supports the “Responding to Climate Change” in the FY 2012 Budget Priority (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, n.d., p. 7) and the region’s Climate Change Strategic Priority (U.S. Forest Service, 2009).

To “Provide the Right Information” entails using social media to connect with Forest users and developing consistent systems of operation. The intent is to enlist the public’s help and understanding in topics regarding sustainability, climate change and ecological restoration.

The goal “Develop our Workforce” involves assessing staff skills, identifying training needs, and improving expertise and skills involving sustainability, implementing green operations and ecological restoration, with particular attention paid to priority Recreation Settings, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness.

“Forging Strategic Partnerships” involves fostering stakeholder relationships and developing partnerships for recreation management to support the implantation of the actions contained in this document. This goal supports the implantation of the region’s Trees and Trails initiative.

Lastly, the program goal “promote citizen stewardship” consists of promoting opportunities for citizens to actively engage in the implementation of actions contained in this document and the development of a citizen-focused education plan.

Forest Focus and Investment Area

Collectively, this framework identifies action items to guide the Forest Recreation program focus and investments. Specifically, areas for focus and investment center on recreation site management, Wild and Scenic River/Wilderness areas management, interpretation, and program administration.

Recreation site management goals include identification of actions associated with developed *recreation sites* with specific consideration granted to *trails management*. Developed recreation site action steps consist of identifying developed site/campground visitor demand, shaping a strategy to complete a recreation site inventory, conducting site operations, and ascertaining maintenance and development needs. Trails management, including motorized and non-motorized, consists of three action steps: developing a trail system plan, fostering partnerships, and implementing education for use of the trail system.

Wild and Scenic River (WSR) and Wilderness areas management actions consist of improving staff expertise and skill in WSR/Wilderness management, utilizing

WSR/Wilderness status to leverage opportunities with partners and citizen stewards and becoming more active and strategic in management of WSR/Wilderness areas.

Interpretation-related actions are two-fold; these action items are composed of developing interpretive products in addition to coordinating and partnering with other public agencies.

Program administration goals consist of reviewing staffing levels of expertise through a skill assessment and identifying training needs, developing and implementing a marketing strategy, as well as developing partnerships.

As detailed, this document lays out a strategy leading to a more sustainable SRNF Recreation Program and supports the USDA 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, the FY 2012 Forest Service Budget Priorities, the national Framework for Sustainable Recreation (2010), and the region's Strategic Priorities.

Introduction

Our intent is to provide identified and executable actions that will lead to a sustainable Recreation program for the SRNF while meeting the principles of the national framework for sustainable recreation. This framework speaks to recreation administration of the entire Six Rivers National Forest; including developed sites managed under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 and dispersed recreation sites. Included in this framework are a discussion of the Six Rivers Recreation Program, a synopsis of the Recreation program direction and guidance, an introduction of the national strategy, followed by the program goals comprising this Framework for Sustainable Recreation.

Six Rivers Recreation Program

The Six Rivers National Forest is a long, narrow forest stretching over 1 million acres along the coastal range (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest, n.d.). The Forest is named for the six rivers that run within its boundaries: the Smith, Klamath, Trinity, Mad, Van Duzen, and Eel. The Smith, Klamath, Trinity, and Eel Rivers; comprising over 365 miles of designated Wild and Scenic River (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest, n.d.).

The Forest is divided into four Districts: the Smith River National Recreation Area (NRA), Lower Trinity Ranger District (LTRD), Mad River Ranger District (MRRD), and Orleans Ranger District (ORD). In addition to these units, the Forest administers management of the Ukonom Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest.

The recreation niche for the Six Rivers National Forest is “Rivers to Ridges – For Fun and Renewal” (Six Rivers National Forest, 2008, June 22). This niche was developed in 2008 to identify unique qualities of the Six Rivers National Forest (Six Rivers National Forest, 2008, June 22) and will be used for tourism and marketing of the Six River National Forest Recreation Program as well as to focus the overall recreation program of work.

The Forest Recreation Program provides management of developed and undeveloped recreation sites across the Forest, including: three scenic byways, 408 miles of six Wild and Scenic Rivers, three National Recreation Trails, six Wilderness areas, over 400 miles of trail including 150 miles of the California Backcountry Discovery Trail, 17 developed campgrounds, 19 developed river accesses, and three developed boat ramps.

Each year, approximately 225,000 and 400,000 visitors come to the SRNF (U.S.D. A. Forest Service, 2010, April). Of these, at least 80% are local or travel three hours or less for day use activities (U.S.D. A. Forest Service, 2010, April). The most popular recreation activities include relaxing, viewing wildlife and fish, observing scenery, hiking and walking, driving for pleasure and non-motorized recreation such as swimming (U.S.D. A. Forest Service, 2010, April). Camping, recreational firearm use, and fishing are recreational activities pursued on this Forest; however, with less frequency than the former.

Recreation Program Direction and Guidance

The Recreation program receives direction and guidance in the promotion of recreation goals and actions. Direction is obtained from National, Regional, and Forest-level directives; while, guidance often comes from stakeholder involvement in planning forums via public input.

Program Direction

Existing National, Regional, and Forest-level directives provide guidance for Recreation Program management. These directives include standards and strategic goals as well as plans, National Environmental Policy Act decisions, and on-going projects. The following list depicts the directives that guide the SRNF Recreation program.

- **USDA STRATEGIC PLAN, FY 2010-2015.** The purpose of the USDA Strategic Plan is to guide agency budget priorities for a five-year period to address issues that are national in scope.
- **FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET OVERVIEW.** The purpose of the Budget Overview is to present to Congress, the President's proposed expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year.
- **CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS: FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE RECREATION (JUNE 2010).** Recently, the Washington Office put forward a national strategy for Forest Service recreation sustainability. The purpose of this national framework is to unite diverse interests, create and strengthen partnerships, focus scarce resources on mission-driven priorities, connect recreation benefits to communities, provide for changing urban populations, as well as sustain and expand the benefits to America that quality recreation opportunities provide.
- **SIX RIVERS LAND AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (1995).** The purpose of the Forest Plan is to "guide the integrated protection and use of the Forest's resources, meet requirements of legislation, and address local, regional, and national issues." (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest, 1995, p. I-1).
- **SIX RIVERS MONITORING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT (2009).** Developed to elicit annual survey results for recreation sites.
- **RECREATION FACILITIES ANALYSIS 5-YEAR PROGRAM OF WORK (2008).** Designed to reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance.
- **FUNCTIONAL ASSISTANCE TRIP.** The Regional Office of the Pacific Southwest Region routinely conducts reviews of the 18 Forests in the Region. A Functional Assistance Trip (FAT) is one such review used to "provide an exchange of information on community enhancement through recreation and tourism, assess the forest organization and budget capacity for mission delivery, and find solutions for technical or operational challenges" (U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, 2010). The FAT provided a platform for reviewing the Six Rivers National

Forest Recreation Program by assessing the current situation, observing practices, sharing ideas, solving problems, answering questions and providing recommendations to the Forest. The outcome of the Trip included a FAT review report consisting of findings and recommendations (Appendix A).

- LOWER TRINITY AND MAD RIVER TRAVEL MANAGEMENT EIS SUBPART B RECORD OF DECISION (APRIL 2010). Intended to bring an additional 65 miles onto the motorized trail system.
- RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS. A whole host of plans provide direction to Recreation program function, including but not limited to the Special Interest Area Strategy (1998), Comprehensive River Management Plans, Wilderness Education and Invasive Species Plans, and the like.
- PROJECTS. The Forest is involved in various projects that provide direction for current and future program strategy. For example, the Forest is involved in Travel Management Subpart A (Travel Analysis) which requires Recreation Program staff to evaluate every road on the transportation system. In addition, Forest recreation staff are working to finish the last of the \$450,000 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act trail maintenance projects, and other key projects. Moreover, future planning will focus on a Region 5 Visitor Safety emphasis for developed sites.

Program Guidance

Program guidance is often received through public input on planning for Recreation program goals and strategies. The development of this document included two tiers of public involvement, including participation in the FAT process and in the first draft of this document.

Public input on the FAT process was elicited through a two-fold approach. Specifically, informal and formal methods were used to gain public perspective. Informal methods were used to obtain public comment on the Recreation Program. These methods included stakeholder attendance at various FAT segments (e.g., first day meeting with FAT team, barbeque at the Smith River NRA). Formal methods of eliciting public comment included opportunities for spoken and written word. A listening session with members of the FAT team, hosted by the Lower Trinity Ranger District, provided stakeholders the opportunity to share their perspectives through a focus-group approach for data collection. Local stakeholders were invited to attend this session to communicate their concerns and suggestions for the SRNF Recreation Program. Sixteen stakeholders participated in the session and provided comment which was transcribed during the meeting. A record of their comments is included in Appendix B. In addition, stakeholders were provided the opportunity to provide written comments to the FAT review report. In October, 2011, The Forest Supervisor shared the report with the stakeholders in attendance at the Lower Trinity Ranger District listening session. Stakeholders were provided with a copy of the report and invited to review and provide comment. Seven stakeholders responded to the review report (see Appendix B).

Public comments collected through formal methods were analyzed using thematic analysis. This data analysis technique allowed for identification of meaningful units from the text and grouping these units into thematic categories (Hatch, 2002). To accomplish this end, public comments were coded by identifying meaningful units (e.g., thoughts, ideas, conversation topics, vocabulary, activities, meanings, feelings, or sayings), then were grouped into a common thematic category based on pattern or relationship. These categories were then defined into themes that reflect the nature of each meaningful unit identified in the grouping. This analysis resulted in seven themes (i.e., trails management, river management, Wilderness management, recreation sites management, promotion and implementation of sustainability, marketing strategy, partnership resources). Discussion on integration of public input in this framework is discussed below.

Moreover, public input was obtained on the first draft of this document. Specifically, public comments were invited from all attendees of the listening session and additional stakeholders who requested to be sent a copy of the document. A total of 40 stakeholders were shared a copy of the first draft of this document. Three stakeholders replied with comments. These comments were integrated throughout the document as permissible (Appendix C).

Connecting People with America’s Great Outdoors: Framework for Sustainable Recreation

The Forest Service National Office has recently put forward a strategic document entitled *Connecting People with America’s Great Outdoors: Framework for Sustainable Recreation* (June 2010). This document puts forward a mission, vision, principles, goals, and focus areas for sustainable recreation on National Forest System lands.

The mission of the national framework is synonymous with that of the Forest Service. Specifically, the mission of the national framework and Forest Service is “to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations” (2010, p. 3). This mission provides a foundation for a unique vision for the national framework. For instance, the national framework vision reads “renewing body and spirit, inspiring passion for the land... we provide recreation on treasured lands that brings health and vitality to individuals and communities and showcases our country’s natural abundance. Recreation on the National Forests and Grasslands invokes feelings of connection to the natural world and inspires responsibility to care for it” (p. 3). The vision is channeled into six guiding principles, including (2010, p. 3-4):

- “Connecting people with their natural and cultural heritage;”
- “Recreational activity in the great outdoors promotes healthy lifestyles;”
- “Community engagement;”
- “National Forests and Grasslands are part of a larger landscape;” and
- “The Recreation program is integrated into the larger agency mission.”

These six guiding principles provide for the outcome of four goals in the national framework. These goals include (2010, p. 4):

- “Provide a diverse range of quality natural and cultural resource based recreation opportunities in partnership with people and communities;”
- “Protect the natural, cultural, and scenic environment for present and future generations to enjoy;”
- “Partner with public and private recreation benefit providers that together we meet public needs and expectations;” and
- “Perform and plan by implementing systems and processes to ensure: effective decisions, sound investments, and accountability; collaborative approaches to integrated solutions across the landscape; and enhanced professionalism of our workforce.”

Lastly, the national strategy follows the philosophical framework for sustainability. By definition, sustainable development ensures the ability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising that of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Report, 1987). Societal needs include environmental, economic, and socio-cultural domains (U.S.D.A., 2010). These three domains frame sustainability in terms of Recreation program function. Specifically, these domains provide structure for the areas of focus for the national framework.

The last element of the national framework is comprised of ten focus areas detailing action steps that will help achieve sustainable recreation programs on every National Forest and Grassland by 2019, the centennial of managed recreation in the Forest Service (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, 2010). The ten areas of focus are listed below and have been rearranged in a more strategic fashion for this document (2010, p. 5-8):

- “Enhance Communities,”
- “Know our Visitors, Community Stakeholders, and Other Recreation Providers,”
- “Develop a Sustainable Financial Foundation,”
- “Invest in Special Places,”
- “Restore and Adapt Recreation Settings,”
- “Implement ‘Green’ Operations,”
- “Provide the Right Information,”
- “Develop our Workforce”
- “Forge Strategic Partnerships,” and

- “Promote Citizen Stewardship.”

The mission, vision, guiding principles, goals, and areas of focus were used to define a framework for sustainable recreation for the SRNF Recreation Program. Specifically, the ten areas of focus in the national strategy comprise the ten goals identified for the SRNF framework.

Program Goals

The following discussion on program goals are based on the ten focus areas identified in the national framework. These focus areas provide structure to the program goals for the SRNF Framework for Sustainable Recreation, while individualized action steps and tasks are identified to achieve these goals. Intentionally omitted is an implementation plan (i.e., identified lead for each program goal/action step, deadlines for accomplishment) for each program goal. Developing an implementation plan is an inherent task of each action step.

“Enhance communities”

To enhance communities, the national framework puts forward the use of a place-based recreation planning model in community-based collaboration. Specifically, a common vision as well as identification of roles to sustain economic and quality of life benefits of recreation will be developed in tandem with stakeholders. Additionally included will be “shared infrastructure development, delivery of information, and provision of recreation services” addressing place-based connections as well as joint identification of economic development and investment options to achieve the common vision (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, 2010, p. 5). Moreover, private and other public lands (e.g., community, state parks, federal and tribal lands) will be evaluated for place-based connections with National Forest System lands. To move this goal forward on SRNF, the following action items have been identified (Table 1).

Table 1. Community enhancement action steps.

Action step
1. Improve communication with community stakeholders. 2. Become more active and strategic in management of Wilderness and WSR for program improvement and community-based recreation opportunities.

Action step one consists of activities such as:

- Create an interdisciplinary Forest Wilderness and WSR working group to address issues through place-based collaborative processes.
- Improve communication with other Forests/agencies who share management of Wilderness areas and WSR with SRNF.
- Improve communications with existing Wilderness and WSR volunteer groups.

Action step two combines the following activities:

- Identify a lead Wilderness program manager for the Forest.
- Update Wilderness management plans.
- Ensure wilderness access to stakeholders.
- Conduct assessment of pack string needs.
- Increase standard scores (e.g., education plan).
- Review Comprehensive River Management Plan to ensure achievement of WSR values.
- Identify a strategy to enhance river access.
- Increase signing and information on WSR designation.
- Pursue opportunities to increase scenery management skills.
- Develop strategies to bring rivers to management standards as identified in the Comprehensive River Management Plan for each WSR.
- Become familiar with WSR target standards.
- Become familiar with the National WSR Program Agenda.
- Improve communication with other Forests/agencies who share management of WSR.
- Become familiar with the WSR Strategic Framework and identify current Framework accomplishments and ways to support the Framework in the future.

“Know our visitors, community stakeholders, and other recreation providers”

The national framework charges recreation managers to know their current and potential visitors, anticipate demand, foresee impacts, and be proactive in regards to management (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, 2010). To achieve this task, the national framework puts forward the charge to adapt the visitor use monitoring system to stay current with societal changes and improve community collaboration skills to move together toward sustainability. These approaches will be achieved on the SRNF as defined in the action items identified in Table 2.

Table 2. Knowledge of visitors, community stakeholders, and other recreation providers action steps.

Action step
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilize NVUM results to guide Recreation program function. 2. Provide opportunities for continuous engagement of community stakeholders in management forums.

Action step one involves the use of the NVUM results to guide Recreation program functions including interpretive services and products, site maintenance, and future site development.

Action step two includes the following:

- Provide opportunities for community stakeholders to be involved in management (e.g. project identification, NEPA processes, project implementation, monitoring, maintenance).
- Utilize collaborative processes to move community groups forward in their involvement.

“Develop a sustainable financial foundation”

The national framework identifies general applications to develop a sustainable financial foundation. Specifically, the national strategy recognizes the unlikely probability that appropriated funds will meet the Recreation program need and is thereby premised on the use of user fees, volunteers, private providers, and partners (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, 2010). For instance, the national framework identifies developing a program analysis model to evaluate infrastructure investments and program costs. In addition, new development investments and program improvements and sustaining existing investments and improvements will be evaluated; while “the gap between program needs and available resources will be identified along with options for closing the gap.” (2010, p. 7). Additionally, opportunities will be sought to integrate programs, databases, processes, and funding with various resource areas (e.g., Heritage, Watershed, Fish and Wildlife, Engineering, Conservation Education). Steps to achieve this goal on the SRNF are identified in Table 3.

Table 3. Development of a sustainable financial foundation action steps.

Action step
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the program analysis model identified in the national framework. 2. Integrate program operations and funding with other resource areas. 3. Develop a tourism strategy.

Action step one includes the following task:

- Once the program analysis model is developed, implement this tool to identify the gap between program needs and available resources.

Action step two describes integrating program operations and funding with other resource areas. This will be achieved by changing the focus of SRNF management from program-focused to organization-focused. This will allow program areas to accomplish resource sharing (e.g., supplementing salaries from other program areas, sharing personnel resources).

Action step three consists of:

- Developing a tourism strategy for the Smith River NRA, WSR corridors, Wilderness areas, recreation sites, and byways.
- Meeting with destination marketing organizations to identify where to focus efforts to expand tourism opportunities.

“Invest in special places”

The national framework puts forward large-scale approaches to investing in special places, such as National Recreation Areas. These approaches include making strategic investments and leveraging partnerships for additional resources and funding, showcasing these special places in multiple media, and evaluating other areas within the National Forest System with outstanding recreational, scenic, historic, or other values of high attractiveness for designation as special areas. These approaches will be put into action on the SRNF as described in Table 4.

Table 4. Invest in special places action steps.

Action step
1. Identify a marketing initiative team.
2. Develop a marketing strategy.

Action step one is comprised the following responsibilities:

- Identify a Forest Service marketing initiative team with a designated program leader and assistant. The Heritage Program Manager should be a part of this team.

Action step two includes the following two tasks:

- Identify accomplishments of existing Tourism Marketing Plan (1995).
- Update and refine existing marketing plan.

“Restore and adapt recreation settings”

Practices to restore and adapt recreation settings are presented as a three-prong approach in the national framework. Specifically, research, analysis, planning, and quality design, will guide restoration of recreation settings while expansion and adaptation will reflect societal diversity. Recreation settings impacted by declining ecosystem health, wildfire, and inappropriate use will be restored to improve the quality of outdoor experiences; while unmanaged recreation will be resolved through planning and design with citizen stewardship and partnerships (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, 2010). This program goal will be achieved on the SRNF through the identification of two focal points: developed sites and trails management.

Developed Sites

A developed recreation site is a physical structure or designated site where recreation fees are typically charged (e.g., campsite, day use area). Management of developed sites includes three action steps (Table 5).

Table 5. Developed sites action steps.

Action step
1. Identify developed site/campground visitor demand.
2. Identify strategy to complete recreation site inventory.
3. Identify site development and resource protection, education, and enforcement to provide for recreation setting restoration and adaptation.

Action step one includes the following tasks:

- Collect monthly demand data (i.e., turn-away quantities for group and single camping requests, site capacity maximums exceeded) and analyze for trends.
- Identify the competitive camping market.
- Identify ways to increase visitation with identified tourism destinations.
- Identify camping alternatives (e.g., environmental camping).
- Determine costs of maintaining campground sites to identify future pricing.

Action step two includes identifying a strategy to complete a recreation site inventory. Through assistance from the Regional Office, this action step will be achieved.

Action step three consists of taking action to mitigate impacts and/or provide for visitor needs through a) development and b) resource protection, education, and enforcement at the following sites:

Development

The following items illustrate identified locations for future projects. These proposed developments are grounded in the Recreation Facilities Analysis (RFA) 5-Year Program of Work (2008) and the Six Rivers Monitoring and Accomplishment Report (2009). In particular, some of the following developments were identified from the RFA, while others are presented as proposed amendments to the RFA.

- Big Flat Campground (NRA): group campground site needed.

- Dispersed Hunting Camps (MRRD): provide sanitation upgrades, site capacity consideration, and monitoring/mitigation for resource impacts.
- Grassy Flat Campground (NRA): water system development needed.
- East Fork Campground (LTRD): improve existing group site and include in fee program.
- Grays Falls Campground (LTRD): move forward with redevelopment of campground.
- Happy Camp (LTRD): upgrade facilities, replace toilet.
- Hawkins Bar (LTRD): boulder placement to protect resources, add picnic tables, replace toilet, upgrade roads, increase pullouts for passing vehicles, and upgrade river put-in.
- Horse Linto Dispersed Camp and Trail (LTRD): install information kiosk, replace existing toilet, install metal fire rings, place campground on fee program, improve interpretive trail, assess management strategy for dispersed sites across creek and encourage community organization (e.g., Boy Scouts, local schools, angler groups) adoption of interpretive trail.
- Horse Mountain Day Use Area and surrounding sites (LTRD): comprehensive plan needed, develop parking area, install vault toilet, install information board and gate to reduce vehicle-caused resource damage, replace/maintain existing signage (e.g., road numbers, Botanical Area boundaries), develop trail system in the Horse Mt/Route 1 area with community trails groups, address safety of recreational firearm use as well as noise disturbance and ammunition litter, address resource protection needs at Cold Springs (e.g., relocation of campsites away from the spring).
- South Fork Trinity and main stem Trinity (LTRD): provide vehicle access for operators and guides as well as recreational boaters.
- Van Duzen River Road Dispersed Camps (MRRD): provide sanitation upgrades, site capacity consideration, and monitoring/mitigation for resource impacts.

Resource Protection, Education, and Enforcement.

The items identified in the following list depict proposed projects illuminated from the Six Rivers Monitoring and Accomplishment Report (2009). This report provides annual survey results for recreation sites and proposed mitigations to reduce resource damage, enrich visitor education, and support enforcement. Specifically, the following sites were identified as noteworthy locations deserving of increased attention for resource management.

- Ammon Ranch/Meadow (LTRD): meadow protection needed from unauthorized vehicle use damage and vandalism.
- Big Bar River Access (ORD): soil compaction remedies and better road drainage needed.

- Big Rock River Access (LTRD): law enforcement needed due to historic vandalism.
- Blue Hole River Access (ORD): decommission user-created trail causing erosion.
- Boise Campground (LTRD): boulder placement to protect resources from damage.
- Cold Springs (LTRD): fence repair and boulder placement needed to protect resource.
- Dolan's Bar River Access (ORD): provide better drainage, leveling of dispersed campsites, and boulder barriers to prevent further resource impacts.
- East Fork Campground (LTRD): allow year-round access to day use area.
- East Fork Campground (LTRD): boulder placement to protect resources.
- George Butler River Access (ORD): education and law enforcement to reduce vandalism.
- Grays Falls Day Use Area (LTRD): off-road vehicle issues throughout the day-use area; needs protection (e.g., boulders, fencing).
- Groves Prairie CG (LTRD): meadow needs protection (e.g., boulders, fencing).
- Kimtu Beach River Access (LTRD): decommission user-created trails.
- Lassics Hunter Camp (MRRD): boulder placement to limit motorized use of unauthorized route.
- Sandy Bar River Access (LTRD): erosion (and possible sedimentation remedies needed due to vehicle traffic and poor drainage, boulder barriers needed to dissuade overnight camping/fire ring construction, and sanitation considerations needed in sensitive (i.e., archaeological) areas.
- Stanshaw Trailhead (ORD): soil compaction remedies needed for rutting at hitching post and corrals caused by animal stock use.

Trails Management

Proposed trails management is based on direction provided by the Lower Trinity and Mad River Travel Management EIS Subpart B Record of Decision (April 2010) and the Functional Assistance Trip. For instance, the parameters identified in the Record of Decision (2010) provided structure for the following tasks. Moreover, one of the recommendations of the Functional Assistance Trip Report (2010) included the provision of trails opportunities to SRNF visitors. The trails management goal consists of two action steps as seen in Table 6.

Table 6. Trails management action steps.

Action step
1. Develop a trail system plan for implementation of trail design, construction/development and maintenance.
2. Develop an education plan for the trail system.

Action step one consists of the following tasks:

- Consider a trail system for non-motorized (i.e., foot traffic, including pack stock, and bicycle) and motorized (i.e., off-highway vehicle (OHV) within bounds of Travel Management) recreation.
- Plan/Design District trail systems ranging from 15 to 50 miles (e.g. Horse Mountain) for varied skill levels.
- Plan/Design trail systems for shared use while minimizing conflict.
- Plan/Design trails for foot traffic only.
- Use planning and design specialists to review and develop proposals.
- Collaborate with local trail groups to identify trail opportunities. Provide the following information: location of all Forest trails, maintenance condition, and define miles of trail for each traffic style (i.e., foot, pack, bicycle, OHV).
- Implement trail construction/development.
- Develop a maintenance plan for routine trail maintenance (e.g., formal trail crew implementation plan).

Action step two consists of items such as:

- Develop an education plan for the identified trail system including consideration for content (e.g., “Leave no Trace”) and interpretive products (e.g., signage, Recreation Opportunity Guides, trailhead kiosks, website).
- Install trail signage to identify trails.
- Develop accurate trail maps.

“Implement ‘green’ operations”

In an effort to reduce the environmental footprint, the national framework requires all recreation programs to incorporate sustainable travel industry best practices, “green

technology,” and environmental management systems in operations (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, 2010). To achieve this aim, the SRNF Recreation program will put into practice the five action steps as defined in Table 7.

Table 7. “Green” operations action steps.

Action step
1. Implement the principles of ecotourism in our practices and delivery of our services.
2. Promote the principles of “Leave no Trace” in services offered.
3. Promote the principles of “Tread Lightly” in services offered.
4. Implement “green technology” practices in facility and trail construction.
5. Share our knowledge, skills, and practices with our community stakeholders and partners.

Action step one entails the implementation of ecotourism principles. Ecotourism is commonly referred to as responsible travel to natural areas that ensures environmental conservation as well as fostering the well-being of local communities (The International Ecotourism Society, 2010). The six principles of ecotourism include:

- Minimize impact.
- Build environmental and cultural awareness and respect.
- Provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts.
- Provide direct financial benefits for conservation.
- Provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people.
- Raise sensitivity to host countries' political, environmental, and social climate.

These principles will be implemented in all Recreation program practices and delivery of visitor services.

Action step two demands the promotion of “Leave no Trace” principles. “Leave no Trace” is national and international program designed to assist recreationists with their decisions about how to reduce their impacts while recreating (Leave no Trace, 2008). The seven principles of “Leave no Trace” consist of:

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Leave what you find.

- Minimize campfire impacts.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of other visitors.

Action step three presents the promotion of “Tread Lightly” principles. “Tread Lightly” is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to promote responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship (Tread Lightly, 2009). The five principles of “Tread Lightly” include:

- Travel responsibly.
- Respect the rights of others.
- Educate yourself.
- Avoid sensitive areas.
- Do your part.

Action step four consists of a call to implement “green technology” practices in facility and trail construction. This will be achieved by following the principles put forward by the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program. This program puts forwards principles for site selection, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere innovation, materials and resources, and awareness and education, to name a few (U.S. Green Building Council, 2011). While it is not the intent of the SRNF to seek LEED certification, the actual intent is to follow the principles as defined to provide guidance in the construction of facilities and trails. For instance, “green technology” practices may include reduction in indoor water use, ensuring energy systems are operating at their maximum capacity according to design efficiencies, using low-pollutant emitting materials such as paint, flooring, and particle board, using “green” truss technology in bridge construction, and using porous or other “green” paving materials (e.g., rubber from shredded tires) for trails and parking lots.

Action step five involves two tasks:

- Providing opportunities for partners and volunteers to assist in field-related projects and sharing our knowledge, skills, and practices during these times.
- Making local training opportunities available to volunteers and partners.

“Provide the right information”

Practices to provide the right information to Forest users is identified in the national framework. For instance, the Framework identifies the need to consolidate and improve external recreation information systems, improve capacity to use social media technology to

connect with users, and develop and maintain a recreation managers’ web toolbox for policy and process guidance. Efforts identified to accomplish this goal are explained in Table 8.

Table 8. Provision of information action steps.

Action step
1. Identify social media technology available to connect with Forest users.
2. Develop systems of program operation for consistency across the Forest.

Action step one consists of identifying social media technology currently available and those potentially available in the future to connect with Forest users.

Action step two entails developing systems of program operation for consistency across the Forest. These systems may include the following: campground host orientations, collection procedures, and annual monitoring processes.

“Develop our workforce”

The national framework identifies the need to replenish, train, and develop skills in our workforce as well as the need for skills to engage in collaborative planning with community stakeholders through partnerships (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, 2010). In order to accomplish this call to action, the Recreation program on the SRNF will conduct the action steps presented in Table 9.

Table 9. Staffing action steps.

Action step
1. Conduct skill assessment.
2. Identify training needs.
3. Improve staff expertise and skill in WSR management.
4. Improve staff expertise and skill in Wilderness areas management.

Action step one consists of the following tasks:

- Conduct a skill assessment of all Forest and District recreation staff to determine current knowledge and experience.
- Identify lead staff for program areas (e.g., trails, volunteer programs).

Action step two includes the following tasks:

- Identify training needs of recreation staff.

- Consider bringing a Landscape Architect to the Forest to help visually present a sign plan for the Smith River NRA.

Action step three includes tasks such as:

- Provide staff working in WSR corridors with WSR management training.
- Strategize funding to provide appropriate resources (e.g., seasonal staff, raft/kayak) to support river recreation activities (e.g., river patrol).
- Establish a greater river presence (e.g., staff patrols).
- Utilize resources from the Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council.
- Consider creating a national, interagency training center on the SRNF.
- Identify a knowledgeable Forest lead for WSR management.
- Organize and host an interagency WSR management training session.
- Organize a training refresher for line officers on WSRA responsibilities.

Action step four consists of the following activities:

- Organize a local Wilderness awareness employee session.
- Encourage line officers to attend one of the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center’s stewardship training sessions.
- Encourage employees with management responsibilities in Wilderness areas to take one of the wilderness courses offered by the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center.
- Increase fire crew training on Wilderness values and Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics.
- Work toward building a bigger cadre of forest employees and volunteers with primitive skills (e.g., stock packing, cross-cut saw).

“Forge strategic partnerships”

The national framework puts forward direction for forging strategic partnerships (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, 2010). Specifically, this entails cultivating coalitions of recreation groups to help in the provision of recreational experiences, service activities, and environmental education. Specifically, partnerships opportunities will be sought to expand the demographic diversity of visitors; while partnership processes will be streamlined and engagement and support of partners will be increased. To achieve this goal on the SRNF, one action step has been identified (Table 10).

Table 10. Forge strategic partnerships action step.

Action step

1. Foster stakeholder relationships and develop partnerships for recreation management.

Action step one consists of developing partnerships with community stakeholders. These arrangements can be formal (e.g., volunteer agreement, partnership agreements) or informal (e.g., collaborative team). The difference between the two is that a formal agreement allows for the delineation of shared tasks and responsibilities and/or the obligation of funds. Some particular tasks of action step one include:

- Developing partnerships for Recreation Program management (e.g., maintenance, funding) including trails, recreation sites, Wilderness areas, WSR corridors, and volunteer programs.
- Provide opportunities for youth involvement, volunteering, and opportunities to learn from others.
- Develop partnerships with organizations, clubs, and individuals for assistance with trail planning and management.
- Partnering for assistance with tasks such as trail signing, trail mapping, trail construction/maintenance, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementation, condition surveys, and facility design.

Action step two is premised on the following responsibilities:

- Use the WSR connection to engage upstream and downstream partners and communities in joint stewardship, marketing, and education.
- Use the Wilderness connection to engage backcountry partners and communities in joint stewardship, marketing, and education.
- Consider coordinating with partners (e.g., other agencies, CAL-TRANS) for sign installation projects.
- Foster relationships with other public agencies working on tribal initiatives that relate to visitor services.

“Promote citizen stewardship”

The promotion of citizen stewardship will cultivate the energy, enthusiasm, and skills of private and nonprofit sector partners and volunteers to provide services and connect people to the land; while inspiring passion for the land and developing a commitment to caring for it. Moreover, personal connections to resources leading to citizen stewardship will be promoted

through conservation and outdoor ethics education (U.S. D.A. Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, 2010). This goal will be addressed on the SRNF through three action steps (Table 11).

Table 11. Promotion of citizen stewardship action steps.

Action step
1. Utilize Wilderness and WSR status to promote opportunities with citizen stewards.
2. Capitalize on existing citizen stewards for assistance with management efforts.
3. Develop an education plan.

Action step one involves the implementation of tasks such as:

- Nurture existing and new partnership relationships to develop a local Wilderness and WSR stewardship group.
- Use Wilderness areas and WSR to connect local and coastal communities to forest resources and to engage citizen stewards in joint stewardship, education, and information sharing.

Action step two consists of the following tasks:

- Engage existing citizen stewards (e.g., permitted outfitters and guides) in WSR management.

Action step three includes the following tasks:

- Consider an education plan that provides interpretive products for conservation education and outdoor ethics.
- Develop signage in developed campgrounds to explain heritage and cultural resources.
- Consider offering programs with tribal members (e.g., basket weaving).
- Develop interpretive signs for botanical, wildlife, and fisheries resources.
- Develop interpretive signage at Forest portals (e.g., Berry Summit).

Public comments

Public input obtained through formal methods (i.e., listening session, feedback on FAT report) were integrated into the action steps throughout this draft of the Recreation Framework. Specifically, the results of the thematic analysis along with constant comparative techniques were used to ensure complete integration of public input.

The results of the thematic analysis (i.e., themes and thematic categories) were used to integrate public comments into this draft Plan by facilitating identification of the appropriate goal to address these comments (Table 12). For example, comments that centered on the thematic category “trails needed” were integrated into the “develop a trail system plan” action step; while, those centering on “maps needed” were integrated into the “provide education on trail system” action step.

As an additional measure to ensure each individual public comment was integrated into the Plan, constant comparative techniques were used. These techniques allowed for a constant comparison between each individual comment and the action steps to ensure each comment was effectively captured in an action step.

Other Considerations

Once the Framework for Sustainable Recreation is finalized and implemented, on-going practices should occur. Specifically, opportunities for public input should be provided. Additionally, annual performance reviews should be conducted to assess financial status and showcase accomplishments.

Table 12. Public comments integrated into Framework for Sustainable Recreation action steps.

Themes	Thematic Category	Addressed in action step
Trails Management	Trails needed	Develop a trail system plan
	Trails (non-motorized) needed	Develop a trail system plan
	Trails (hiking) needed	Develop a trail system plan
	Themed hikes needed	Develop a trail system plan
	Lengthier trails needed	Develop a trail system plan
	Trail work needed	Develop partnerships for trail maintenance
	Maps needed	Provide education on trail system
	Trail clarification needed	Develop a trail system plan
	Loss of trails due to aging or lack of maintenance	Develop a trail system plan
	Trail construction before trail maintenance	Develop a trail system plan
River Management	River access needed	Become more active and strategic in management of WSR
	River management needed	Improve staff expertise and skill in WSR management
Wilderness Management	Wilderness access needed	Become more active and strategic in management of Wilderness areas
	Pack strings needed	Become more active and strategic in management of Wilderness areas
	Education and management with pack stock	Become more active and strategic in management of Wilderness areas
	Wilderness chainsaw use is appropriate	Become more active and strategic in management of Wilderness areas
	Forest Service losing backcountry skills	Improve staff expertise and skill in Wilderness management
Recreation Sites Management	Site development	Identify developed site visitor demand; Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs

Themes	Thematic Category	Addressed in action step
	Recreation opportunity development	Identify developed site visitor demand; Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs
	Motorized use impacts	Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs
	Cycling opportunities needed	Develop a trail system plan
	User conflict	Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs
Sustainability Promotion and Implementation	Economic sustainability	Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs; Develop a trail system plan
	Trail user contribution to economic sustainability	Develop a trail system plan
	Socio-cultural sustainability	Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs; Develop a trail system plan
	Stakeholder collaboration needed	Develop partnerships
	Potential project partnership	Develop partnerships
Marketing Strategy	Marketing strategy needed	Develop a marketing strategy
	Past accomplishments	Develop a marketing strategy
	Planning before promotion	Identify a marketing initiative team
	Product development	Develop a marketing strategy
	Promotion with maps	Develop a marketing strategy
	Limited approach to marketing	Develop a marketing strategy
	FS does not offer product	Develop a marketing strategy
	identify ecotourism opportunities	Identify a tourism strategy

Themes	Thematic Category	Addressed in action step
Partnership Resources	Volunteer resources	Develop partnerships
	Youth involvement needed	Develop partnerships
	Learn from others	Develop partnerships

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Appendix A

Functional Assistance Trip Review Report

Table 13. Findings and recommendations identified in the FAT review report.

Visibility of the Forest and Smith River NRA Recreation Program and Partnership and Tourism opportunities	
Finding(s)	The Forest and Smith River NRA, have amazing settings that can provide unique recreational experiences; however, marketing efforts are limited.
Recommendation(s)	Collaborate with gateway communities and tourism professionals to develop a collective marketing strategy for the Forest Recreation Program and Smith River NRA.
Potential Heritage Tourism	
Finding(s)	Heritage resources on the Six Rivers National Forest are extensive and many currently receive active use, providing a unique opportunity for preservation and interpretation.
Recommendation(s)	Balance preservation with visitor access/use through visitor education (e.g., interpretive signage, collaborate with local Tribes for cultural interpretation).
Developed Sites Strategy	
Finding(s)	Developed recreation sites across the Forest have received diligent maintenance (e.g., new facility construction, facility renovation).
Recommendation(s)	In order to prepare for potential future Continuous Improvement Projects, short-term tactical initiatives focusing on market demand should be practiced, including: a) assess camping demand, b) determine quantity of turn-away requests for camping, c) understand the camping occupancies of the local competition, d) collaboration with local recreational vehicle park and campground owners (i.e., public and private) to determine how best to support their customers and provide supplemental products/services, e) consider other camping products (e.g., light camps, environmental camps), f) isolate costs of campground maintenance to use for future pricing of these sites, and g) a discussion with permitted outfitters and guides to discuss strategies for improving river access.

National Framework for Sustainable Recreation	
Finding(s)	The Forest is well-positioned to apply the "collaborative approach" to accomplish success in each of the "focus areas" (Framework for Sustainable Recreation, 2011).
Recommendation(s)	With help from the National Team, the Forest could conduct a rapid assessment and begin to work with communities on vision and objectives.
Smith River NRA Motorized Recreation Planning and Management	
Finding(s)	The stakeholders of the SRNF are making progress in resolving issues between their various interests by way of contracted facilitation. The Forest needs direction on how to add routes to the system if they test positive for naturally occurring asbestos (i.e., found in serpentine rock) and what public information or management actions are recommended to minimize risk to public safety.
Recommendation(s)	Continue to support the stakeholders collaborative. The Regional Office needs to provide guidance on road and trail management in serpentine rock country.
Wild and Scenic River Management	
Finding(s)	Observations included: a) WSR system signage is not apparent, b) no documentation in publications of the outstandingly remarkable values of each river, c) no Forest-level WSR expert, d) no Landscape Architect on staff, e) no indication if WSR were managed to standard, f) may be some confusion of classification with designation (e.g., river segments classified as recreational and the process by which the agency carries out its WSR Act Section 7 responsibilities, f) some crowding and capacity issues during peak times, and g) some user conflicts with motorized river use.
Recommendation(s)	Recommendations included: a) improve staff expertise and skill in WSR Management, b) increase WSR management expertise (e.g., staff training, identify lead for WSR management and patrol), c)utilize WSR to leverage opportunities (e.g., highlight opportunities for WSR scenic enjoyment as part of Scenic Highway experience, use WSR connection to engage downstream partners and communities), and d) become more active and strategic in management of WSR (e.g., increase signage, increase scenery management skills on projects,

	develop strategies to bring rivers to standard, understand the specific "outstandingly remarkable values" for which each WSR segment is designated, implement mechanisms so that visitor use does not negatively impact water quality, improve communication with other Forests who share management of WSR).
Wilderness Management	
Finding(s)	The Wilderness program appeared invisible as evidenced by: a) no mention of the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge, progress, or strategy for accomplishment, b) wilderness resource awareness/tactics training with local fire crews not apparent, c) no discussion on interdisciplinary opportunities, d) unauthorized activities of volunteers in Wilderness (e.g., chainsaw use), and e) no Forest lead for Wilderness program management.
Recommendation(s)	Suggestions included: a) more communication with other Forests/agencies for shared Wilderness management, b) improve staff expertise and skill in Wilderness management (e.g., staff training, employee awareness session), and c) use Wilderness areas to leverage opportunities (e.g., collaborate with partners for stewardship, collaborate with local communities for education), d) become more active and strategic in management of Wilderness areas (e.g., identify Wilderness program manager, begin discussions with Klamath re: management of Siskiyou, improve communication with other Forests who share Wilderness management, understand the 10YWSC, create an interdisciplinary Forest Wilderness working group to address Wilderness issues, improve communications with existing volunteer groups).
Trail Opportunities	
Finding(s)	Several areas have potential for redevelopment into trails suitable for non-motorized use including mountain biking. These efforts are shepherded by very capable partners allowing for substantial opportunity for the Forest to leverage products (e.g., NEPA analysis, trail inventory, maintenance, construction).
Recommendation(s)	Suggestions included: a) arrange trail system pods accounting for 15 to 50 miles of trail, b) develop the Coast to Crest trail to accommodate mountain bike use, identify old/overgrown trails for re-opening, c) market trail systems through signage and trail maps, d) plan the trail system to meet the needs of user groups without adding excessive maintenance costs, and d) work internally to develop interpretive trails.
Staffing and Skills	
Finding(s)	The Forest appears to lack some fundamental staff skills critical to recreation management (i.e., trail design, scenery management,

	tourism marketing/communication staff, Wilderness and WSR expertise).
Recommendation(s)	Suggestions included: a) recreation staff skill assessment and b) training for current staff (e.g., trail planning/design/management, WSR, Wilderness).

Appendix B

Thematic Analysis of Public Comments

Table 14. Thematic analysis: Public comments from the listening session and report feedback classified into themes.

Themes	Thematic Category	Addressed in action step	
Trails Management	Trails needed	Develop a trail system plan	
	Trails (non-motorized) needed	Develop a trail system plan	
	Trails (hiking) needed	Develop a trail system plan	
	Themed hikes needed	Develop a trail system plan	
	Lengthier trails needed	Develop a trail system plan	
	Trail work needed	Develop partnerships for trail maintenance	
	Maps needed	Provide education on trail system	
	Trail clarification needed	Develop a trail system plan	
	Loss of trails due to aging or lack of maintenance	Develop a trail system plan	
	Trail construction before trail maintenance	Develop a trail system plan	
	River Management	River access needed	Become more active and strategic in management of WSR
		River management needed	Improve staff expertise and skill in WSR management
Wilderness Management	Wilderness access needed	Become more active and strategic in management of	

		Wilderness areas
	Pack strings needed	Become more active and strategic in management of Wilderness areas
	Education and management with pack stock	Become more active and strategic in management of Wilderness areas
	Wilderness chainsaw use is appropriate	Become more active and strategic in management of Wilderness areas
	Forest Service losing backcountry skills	Improve staff expertise and skill in Wilderness management
Recreation Sites Management	Site development	Identify developed site visitor demand; Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs
	Recreation opportunity development	Identify developed site visitor demand; Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs
	Motorized use impacts	Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs
	Cycling opportunities needed	Develop a trail system plan
	User conflict	Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs
Sustainability Promotion and Implementation	Economic sustainability	Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for visitor needs; Develop a trail system plan
	Trail user contribution to economic sustainability	Develop a trail system plan
	Socio-cultural sustainability	Identify actions to mitigate resource impacts and/or provide for

		visitor needs; Develop a trail system plan
	Stakeholder collaboration needed	Develop partnerships
	Potential project partnership	Develop partnerships
Marketing Strategy	Marketing strategy needed	Develop a marketing strategy
	Past accomplishments	Develop a marketing strategy
	Planning before promotion	Identify a marketing initiative team
	Product development	Develop a marketing strategy
	Promotion with maps	Develop a marketing strategy
	Limited approach to marketing	Develop a marketing strategy
	FS does not offer product	Develop a marketing strategy
	identify ecotourism opportunities	Identify a tourism strategy
Partnership Resources	Volunteer resources	Develop partnerships
	Youth involvement needed	Develop partnerships
	Learn from others	Develop partnerships

Appendix C

Responses to Comments on Rivers to Ridges for Fun and Renewal: Framework for Sustainable Recreation Six Rivers National Forest

Horse Mountain Recreation Management (HMRM)

Comment HMRM1: “It’s great to see improvements for the ‘Horse Mtn Day Use Area’ listed under site development. – A helpful addition would be giving priority to replacing/maintaining existing (road) signage. That would help trail users, in terms of finding our way around. This includes Forest road #'s, the Botanical Area signs, and the ‘Cold Springs’ sign.”

Response: These items addressed within the document (p 12) as reflected in the following text:

Horse Mountain Day Use Area and surrounding sites (LTRD): comprehensive plan needed, develop parking area, install vault toilet, install information board and gate to reduce vehicle-caused resource damage, replace/maintain existing signage (e.g., road numbers, Botanical Area boundaries), develop trail system in the Horse Mt/Route 1 area with community trails groups, address safety of recreational firearm use as well as noise disturbance and ammunition litter, address resource protection needs at Cold Springs (e.g., relocation of campsites away from the spring).

Comment HMRM2: “Recreational firearms use is very common on Horse Mt. and needs to be ‘managed!’ Besides overt vandalism of signs, trees and other ‘targets,’ many of the shooters leave a lot of debris behind (shotgun shells, brightly-painted clay pigeon fragments, etc.). With more and more multiple use of the area, something needs to be done for the safety and comfort of all users. A designated target-practice area may or may not be part of a solution.”

Response: Firearm uses at Horse Mountain have been added to the document (see above text block).

Comment HMRM3: “Cold Springs is a feature and a site that we trail users really like. Besides the resource protection needs identified, keeping an eye out for ways to keep it clean and used appropriately will be important (along with some of the other commonly-used car-camping sites along FR1.)”

Response: Cold Springs resource protection has been included in the document (see above text block).

Trails Management (TM)

Comment TM1: “The Trails Management section of the report starting on p. 12 is of special interest. The emphasis in the first step is clearly and properly Plan and Design. However, the second step is the only real reference to actual trail construction which, in the Horse Mt. – Titlow Hill area is critical since there are no designated trails existing in that area.”

Response: The trails management section has been revised to include construction as part of action step one (i.e., “Develop a trail system plan for implementation of trail design, construction/development and maintenance.”) (p. 14). In addition, the following construction related activity has been identified in action step one (p. 14): “Implement trail construction/development.”

Comment TM2: “And, it is a bit disconcerting to see the implication that construction and maintenance of trails requires partnering for assistance rather than being a basic Forest Service responsibility. Partnering is presently occurring, especially in the form of exploration of potential trails, but it should hardly be a requirement for trail construction and maintenance.”

Response: Implementing trail construction was identified in the trails management action step, omitting any reference to partnerships to complete the work (p. 14).

Comment TM3: “I am further bothered by the emphasis on planning indicate in Table 9. Obviously, planning is necessary, but the essential step is the implementation of the plan... I would like to see more of an indication that there is an intent to implement the plan.”

Response: Implementation of trail construction has been identified in trails management action step one (i.e., “Implement trail construction/development”) (p. 14). In addition, the following explanation was provided within the text (p. 11): “Intentionally omitted is an implementation plan (i.e., identified lead for each program goal/action step, deadlines for accomplishment) for each program goal. Developing an implementation plan is an inherent task of each action step.”

Comment TM4: “We of course want to know what the detailed steps are for the Forest to ‘plan and design a trail system,’ and will look forward to finding out more about that (realizing that that level of detail is beyond the scope of this framework.)”

Response: Detailing the steps to ‘plan and design a trail system’ is beyond the scope of this document. However, through collaborative processes, our community stakeholders will be provided the opportunity to be involved in those planning actions.

Comment TM5: “Perhaps Horse Mountain could be the first trail system ‘pod’ developed, to serve as a test case/model, and because you have a user coalition eager to assist??”

Response: Horse Mountain is a site of focus for this document and likely it could be the first location for a trail system design.

Comment TM6: “400 miles of trails? Where are they and what is their status? Someone should, hopefully on an annual basis, hike these trails and ascertain their status – this might be a good opportunity for the partnership approach by asking those who indicate their intent to hike certain trails to report back as to their condition.”

Response: There are 400 miles of trails across the four Districts of the Forest. A portion of these trails are accessible; however, work needs to be accomplished to make the remaining trails accessible. Given staffing limitations, there are not enough resources to commit to personnel hiking these trails for condition surveys. Such work would be a great opportunity for partnership.

Comment TM7: “The report mentions 400 miles of trails on the Forest. I wonder if this is broken down into wilderness trails, access trails, hiking trails, biking trails, equestrian trails, etc. It might be useful in considering needs, and for public knowledge and input.”

Response: The 400 miles of trail consist of 149 miles of Wilderness trails and 251 miles of non-Wilderness trails.

Comment TM8: “What are the three (3) National Recreation Trails? Where are they located? Are they identified on a map? Are they currently maintained and in good repair?”

Response: The three National Recreation Trails (NRT) are South Kelsey NRT (NRA), Horse Ridge NRT (LTRD), and Salmon Summit NRT (ORD). Each NRT is identified on the Forest map. Trail conditions are good on the South Kelsey NRT and Salmon Summit NRT; however, on the Horse Ridge NRT conditions are fair.

Comment TM9: “What is the 150 miles of California Backcountry Discovery Trail? Where is it? Is it on a map and is it accessible to all?”

Response: The California Backcountry Discovery Trail was designed for OHV travel. The trail is located on the MRRD. The trail is identified on the Forest map and is accessible to all.

Comment TM10: “The Coast to Crest Trail was mentioned in the Functional Assistance Trip report... Where is its western trailhead? Is there more information about this trail and its status?”

Response: The Coast to Crest Trail is currently being developed. The intent is to have a continuous trail connecting the coast to the Pacific Crest Trail near the Oregon/California border. A western trailhead has yet to be constructed. For more information, refer to the following website: <http://www.rosefdn.org/article.php?list=type&type=118>.

Comment TM11: “What is the Coast to Crest trail? Same questions apply.”

Response: See above response.

Comment TM12: “Trails management is broken down to three action steps: a trail system, partnerships and education. It sounds really good and leads to my questions: When and how do we begin? How do we go from this general over view to a step by step work plan? An identified need stated in the report is to recognize ‘a lead’ for each of the programs. Knowing who best to work with could certainly be helpful.”

Response: An identified implementation plan has been intentionally omitted from the framework and will be planned during out-year program of work planning. This is explained in the following text taken from the document (p. 11): “Intentionally omitted is an implementation plan (i.e., identified lead for each program goal/action step, deadlines for accomplishment) for each program goal. Developing an implementation plan is an inherent task of each action step.”

Comment TM13: “What are trail system ‘pods’?”

Response: A trail system ‘pod’ is a group of trails, consisting of opportunities for varying or similar skill levels, in a given location. The intention is to have a trail system pod at each District which would comprise a complete trail system for the SRNF. To hinder any further confusion regarding this term, it has been removed from the text of the document.

Partnership Development (PD)

Comment PD1: “What exactly is a partnership? Are there written contracts to formalize such an arrangement? What are the benefits to the stakeholders in forming a partnership with the Forest Service? There are frequent references to partnerships; I wonder if this can be explained.”

Response: These questions are addressed within the document as illustrated in the following excerpt (p19):

The national framework (2010) puts forward direction for forging strategic partnerships. Specifically, this entails cultivating coalitions of recreation groups to help in the provision of recreational experiences, service activities, and environmental education. Specifically, partnerships opportunities will be sought to expand the demographic diversity of visitors; while partnership processes will be streamlined and engagement and support of partners will be increased... Action step one consists of developing partnerships with community stakeholders. These arrangements can be formal (e.g., volunteer agreement, partnership agreements) or informal (e.g., collaborative team). The difference between the two is that a formal agreement allows for the delineation of shared tasks and responsibilities and/or the obligation of funds.

Comment PD2: “I hope that the Forest will want to develop partnerships NOW, so that groups like ours can be an active part of trail system planning and design. We have skills and perspective to lend, and being involved from the start will help strengthen interest to help with subsequent construction and maintenance.”

Response: The Forest is actively pursuing partnerships in the delivery of program services and management functions. Future collaborations are welcome.

Introduction (I)

Comment I1: “I would be interested in information about how these (presumable 2009) data were collected.”

Response: A detailed description of NVUM research methods can be viewed at the following reference: U.S.D. A. Forest Service (2010, April). Six Rivers National Forest National Visitor Use Monitoring Survey Results, 2009. <http://apps.fs.usda.gov/nrm/nvum/results/Default.aspx> (accessed March 22, 2011).

Comment I2: “No mention is made of hunting and shooting which are, at least in the Horse Mt. – Titlow Hill area, major recreational uses.

Response: The introduction was revised to include recreational firearm use as evidenced in the following excerpt (p. 6):

The most popular recreation activities include relaxing, viewing wildlife and fish, observing scenery, hiking and walking, driving for pleasure and non-motorized recreation such as swimming (U.S.D. A. Forest Service, 2010, April).

Camping, recreational firearm use, and fishing are recreational activities pursued on this Forest; however, with less frequency than the former.

Program Goals (PG)

Comment PG1: “How is a ‘recreation site’ defined?”

Response: This term was defined in the document as “A developed recreation site is a physical structure or designated site where recreation fees are typically charged (e.g., campsite, day use area)” (p. 11).

Comment PG2: “How are the monthly counts proposed to be made? And, note that the lack of publicized facilities (trails) contributes to the lack of use and demand.”

Response: This task was clarified in the document as “Collect monthly demand data (i.e., turn-away quantities for group and single camping requests, site capacity maximums exceeded) and analyze for trends” (p. 11).

Comment PG3: “The ‘Dispersed Hunting Camps’ are finally noted but only for the Mad River Ranger District.”

Response: Dispersed hunting camps are noted for the MRRD as this is a unique management challenge on the Forest. The use of firearms on the LTRD is a recreational shooting use without the same challenges as the hunting camps on MRRD. Challenges identified from recreational firearm use on Horse Mountain have been addressed in the document in the following text (p. 12):

*Horse Mountain Day Use Area and surrounding sites (LTRD):
comprehensive plan needed, develop parking area, install vault toilet, install information board and gate to reduce vehicle-caused resource damage, replace/maintain existing signage (e.g., road numbers, Botanical Area boundaries), develop trail system in the Horse Mt/Route 1 area with community trails groups, address safety of recreational firearm use as well as noise disturbance and ammunition litter, address resource protection needs at Cold Springs (e.g., relocation of campsites away from the spring).*

Comment PG4: “Pack Stock are mentioned which is fine but there is substantial demand for just riding trails without the involvement of pack animals.”

Response: Pack stock is used in this context to reflect all pack animals, regardless of the amount of stock.

Comment PG5: “What is meant by ‘a greater river presence’?”

Response: This question has been clarified in the document as reflected in the following verbiage (p. 24): “Strategize funding to provide appropriate resources (e.g., seasonal staff, raft/kayak) to support river recreation activities (e.g., river patrol). Establish a greater river presence (e.g., staff patrols).”

Comment PG6: “What is meant by “bring river to management standards’?” Does this mean that the Forest Service proposes to manage the flows in the Trinity and Klamath rivers?”

Response: Clarification has been provided in the document as illustrated in the following text (p. 18): “Develop strategies to bring rivers to management standards as identified in the Comprehensive River Management Plan for each WSR.