



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Inyo National Forest

White Mountain Ranger Station
798 North Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 873-2500
(760) 873-2563 TDD

File Code: 1950/2320

Date: June 4, 2013

Dear Interested Citizen,

The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Inyo National Forest (Forest Service), has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposal to implement a restoration project on unauthorized routes in the White Mountains and John Muir Wildernesses. The Forest Service proposes to conduct restoration activities on fifty-eight unauthorized routes in a project area that includes eighty unauthorized routes. The unauthorized routes are either located in wilderness or were designated as unauthorized by the 2009 Travel Management Record of Decision. The EA 30-day public review and comment period is expected to begin on June 4, 2013.

The project has two primary purposes. The first purpose is to protect wilderness character by preventing illegal vehicle trespass into the two wilderness areas. The second purpose is to promote natural revegetation processes on the routes. The Forest Service has identified three objectives for the project: protect soil quality by stabilizing eroding sections of routes; promote the recovery of native vegetation cover and plant communities on route surfaces; protect the undeveloped quality of wilderness character in the White Mountains and John Muir Wildernesses.

Under the Modified Proposed Action, the Forest Service would conduct six types of restoration activities: de-compact surface soils on routes; reestablish natural contours on route surfaces by removing berms; install native vertical mulch; spread native ground mulch; install water bars or similar water diversion structures; and transplant/seed with native plants on the non-wilderness portion of routes. These project activities would enable the Forest Service to best meet the project's purpose and objectives.

The EA is available in hard copy format or can be viewed on the Inyo National Forest website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/landmanagement/projects/?cid=stelprdb5407462>. To obtain a copy of the EA please contact Project Leader Jeff Novak at 760-876-6231, jnovak@fs.fed.us, or PO Box 8, Lone Pine, CA, 93545.

Information about how to comment on the EA is provided below. Please contact Jeff Novak at the phone number or email address provided above if you have questions about the EA or commenting procedures.

Sincerely,

MARGARET WOOD
District Ranger, Mount Whitney and
White Mountain Ranger Districts



How to Comment on the EA

The comment period ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the Inyo Register. Only those who provide comment or otherwise express interest in the proposed action during the comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of this comment period will not constitute standing for appeal purposes.

Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Comments must be submitted to Jeff Novak, Wilderness Unauthorized Route Restoration Project Manager, White Mountain Ranger Station, 798 North Main Street, Bishop, CA, 93514, (760)876-6231, or fax 760-876-6202. Comments may also be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html) to comments-pacificsouthwest-inyo@fs.fed.us. Comments may also be hand delivered weekdays 8:00 am - 4:30 pm at the above stated address. Contact Jeff Novak to make arrangements to provide oral comments.

To be eligible for appeal, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Names and addresses of commentors will become part of the public record.

The publication date of the legal notice in The Inyo Register is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit comments on the proposed action. Those wishing to comment on this proposal should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source.