



Shasta County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Subject: Travel Management Planning Process

Dear Regional Forester:

This letter is in reference to your ongoing Travel Management Planning Process (TMPP). We are concerned about its potential impacts on Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) travel. User-created routes have been in place on the federal lands for many years. This recreational resource is widely used and enjoyed by a broad cross section of the community. As proposed, the TMPP may significantly degrade this network. We are concerned about these impacts. We feel that the associated social and resource implications have not been fully acknowledged and mitigated in the environmental documents. We suggest the following steps to alleviate these concerns:

A Bias for Recreation – An open and welcoming approach to OHV's in the forest should be the starting place for the analysis. Where credible and specific issues perhaps warrant limitations, the impacts to OHV recreation should be recognized and mitigated. Local OHV users should be consulted on specific routes prior to dropping them from further consideration to determine if resource issues can be mitigated.

Strengthen Coordination with Counties – Coordination with Counties is essential, requiring early and meaningful participation (prior to other public involvement) and review of final documents for consistency with local policy.

Renewed Public Input – The travel analyses to date have lacked sufficient detail and a structured approach to soliciting public input. A renewed and reinvigorated approach to public input is necessary and will be beneficial. The public proposed many routes for designation, but current Notices of Intent (NOIs) and Proposed Actions do not reflect this input. Information on how all routes were evaluated and why many were dropped from further consideration needs to be available to the public. Working drafts of NOIs and the alternatives for Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements should be presented to the public and cooperating agencies for review and comment.

Achieve a Greater Balance of Motor Vehicle Access with Environmental Protection – These goals are not mutually exclusive. We understood the FS planning process would result in a well-managed and sustainable transportation system for motor vehicle use. This well designed system would provide quality riding opportunities and experiences to the public. There are numerous opportunities to create loops, long distance touring, a variety of challenge, and

access to campsites, vistas, etc. using both existing NFS routes as well as some unauthorized routes. A quality OHV system is more important than quantity (e.g. number of miles).

This list is intended as a starting place. An open approach to responsible stewardship is our common goal. With that in mind, we look forward to working with you to facilitate responsible recreation in our Nation's forests.



Les Baugh, Supervisor, District 5
County of Shasta



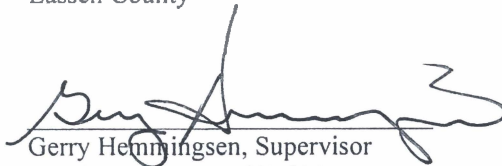
Ric Costales, Natural Resource Policy
Specialist, County of Siskiyou



Lloyd Keefer, Supervisor, District 3
Lassen County



Tom McGowan, Supervisor, District 1
Glenn County



Gerry Henningsen, Supervisor
District 4, County of Del Norte

Supporting Organizations



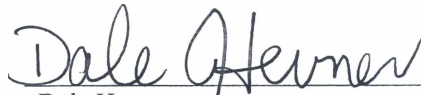
Matt Rokes, Public Information Officer
Siskiyou County Off-Road Riders



John Burwell, Redding Dirt Riders and
Shasta County Search and Rescue



Jim Lipke, Club President
Siskiyou County Off-Road Riders



Dale Hevner
Shasta Rock Rollers