

County of Mono
Planning Department

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Ltr/Proposed Forest Plan
July 11, 1985

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RECEIVED

Jim Nelson, Forest Supervisor
Tolyabe National Forest
1260 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 09431

JUL 15 85

Tolyabe National Forest

Re: Proposed Forest Plan, Tolyabe National Forest

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Forest Plan. It appears to be comprehensive and well organized. The County is appreciative of the recognition the Plan gives to the Bridgeport area, describing the direct impact that recreational use of Tolyabe National Forest has on the town's economy. It is also encouraging to read of the numerous planned improvements to campgrounds and other Forest facilities within Mono County that are included in the Forest Plan.

SU-1

national forest, it would be helpful if you could provide us with a list of "typical" uses that would be considered appropriate. The last paragraph of this section states "When proposals to develop private inholdings will significantly impact National Forest lands, these concerns and recommended mitigation measures will be discussed with the appropriate county or local official". If the County know in advance of any inholdings that might significantly impact the forest for whatever reasons, the zoning and general plan could address them and thus hopefully minimize the submission of unacceptable proposals.

SU-2

In regards to the management direction for proposed small hydro projects, our Energy Management Department recommends close interaction during the preliminary review stage. This will ensure that a proposal can comply with applicable regulatory standards and County laws. Additionally, proof that a proposal can comply with regulations of the State Water Resources Control Board shall be required. Formal consultation and interaction with the County on geothermal proposals should also be included in the Plan.

VI-146

WD-20

We would like to support the Plan's recommendation of additional areas for wilderness designation, specifically 49,200 acres to the Hoover Wilderness, all within Mono County. Past history shows that designating an area as wilderness increases recreational use while preserving scenic and wildlife resources to the greatest extent possible.

REC-15
PG-21

An area of concern throughout the County is avalanche hazard to homes and roads. Although these improvements are often on private lands, the avalanche starting zones are primarily on public land. The area of primary concern in the Tolyabe is Twin Lakes outside of Bridgeport (the Virginia Lake hazard is closed to winter use). The County currently employs a snow/avalanche expert during the avalanche season who advised the Sheriff's office whenever evacuation appears necessary. As a result of performing this function for the last three seasons, he believes that physical alteration at the starting zone or runoff area of the major avalanche chutes would do much to alleviate the danger. These alterations include snow fences, diversion structures, and dispersal mounds. If any of these improvements could be installed on public lands, the County would be most anxious to cooperate and interact with the Forest Service. At this stage, however, we would like to see at least a recognition of the need in the Forest Plan.

L-6

In addition to recreation, the Forest Service's policy on land ownership is of interest and concern to the County. It appears from the Plan that there are very few lands eligible for disposal by land exchange (pg. 11-9). However, if any of these lands are within Mono County, it would be quite useful if you could identify them. This same information was crucial in formulating the County's general plan for Mammoth Lakes.

Lastly, a copy of the newest earthquake hazard maps for this area are included for your information. It appears that some of your current or planned improvements are within these areas.

Related to land ownership are the goals on "lands and Special Uses" on pages IV-7 & 8. Goal 1 contains provisions for allowing "use and occupancy of the National Forest by private individuals or Federal, State and local government when such use is consistent..." Since we are currently developing a Public Agency (PA) zoning designation that would overlay the

