



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Inyo National Forest

Mono Lake Ranger District
P.O. Box 429
Lee Vining, CA 93541
(760) 647-3044
(760) 647-3045 TDD

File Code: 1950-1

Date: August 23, 2007

Dear Interested Party:

The US Forest Service, Inyo National Forest, Mono Lake Ranger District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the "Mono Lake Trail" project. In partnership with California State Parks and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Forest Service proposes to construct an interpretive trail from the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center to the "Old Marina" recreation site within the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve.

The following alternatives are evaluated in the EA:

- No Action – Continue to allow motor vehicle access along route Z51 and to the historic natural feature known as "Icebox Tufa." No improvement in visual quality of area and no designation of a route from visitor center to Mono Lake.
- Modified Proposed Action – Construct a 1.5-mile interpretive hiking trail that consists of native soils in the upper sections from the Visitor Center to Icebox Tufa, a sinuous trail design in the middle portion of the trail, and an ADA portion of trail from Icebox Tufa to Old Marina. Low level of development.
- Original Proposed Action – Harden entire length of 1.3-mile proposed trail from the Visitor Center to the Old Marina. Design trail to create accessibility for hikers and bikers and construct a portion of trail to be compatible with wheelchair access. High level of development.

The EA is currently available for a 30-day public comment period. We invite your participation in the environmental analysis process for this project and welcome your comments, suggestions, and feedback. Details about how to comment on the EA are provided at the end of this letter.

The EA other project information are available online at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/projects>. If you have questions or need additional information about this proposal or comment procedures, please contact Jon Kazmierski, Project Leader, at 760-647-3010, or by email at jkazmierski@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mike Schlafmann
MIKE SCHLAFMANN
Deputy District Ranger



How to Comment and Timeframe

Those who provide comments during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice in *The Inyo Register*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to: Mike Schlafmann, Deputy District Ranger, Mono Lake Ranger District, at: PO Box 429, Lee Vining, CA 93541; or by fax to (760) 647-3027. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 9:00am-4:00pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone, (760) 647-3003, in person, or at an official agency function (i.e., public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to jkazmierski@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

Comments may be:

- **Mailed** to the attention of
Deputy District Ranger Mike Schlafmann
Mono Lake Ranger District
PO Box 429
Lee Vining, CA 93541
- **Hand delivered** weekdays between the
hours of 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. at the
above address
- **Faxed** to (760) 647-3027
- **Electronically mailed** to:
jkazmierski@fs.fed.us
- **Provided by telephone or in person** at the
Responsible Official's office,
(760) 647-3003