



Forest
Service

Six Rivers
National Forest

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File Code: 1950-3/2350/7700
Route To:

Date: December 19, 2008

Subject: Lower Trinity and Mad River Travel Management Scoping Letter

To: Interested Parties

The Six Rivers National Forest requests your comments on the *Proposed Action for the Lower Trinity and Mad River Travel Management* project. The *Notice of Intent* to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published in the Federal Register on December 19. The publication of this notice begins a 45-day comment period.

The Travel Management project, also referred to as "OHV Route Designation," is part of a national effort to designate motorized transportation systems within each National Forest in the country. This effort is intended to provide a quality, sustainable system of roads and trails managed for public motorized use. More information about this larger effort can be found at the Region Five website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/.

The existing unauthorized routes proposed as trails are typically native surface high-clearance routes. They are used by a wide variety of visitors who drive motorized vehicles to access an almost unlimited array of recreational opportunities or to simply enjoy the experience of four-wheel drive touring, all-terrain vehicle or motorcycle riding on spectacular Six Rivers National Forest lands.

The Six Rivers National Forest proposes (1) the prohibition of cross-country motor vehicle travel (with the exception of snowmobiles) off designated National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) roads and trails by the public except as allowed by permit or other authorization; (2) make a non-significant amendment to the Six Rivers National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to conform to the Travel Management Rule; (3) add approximately 58 miles of existing unauthorized routes to the NFTS as motorized trails open to the public for motor vehicle use by vehicle class and season of use; (4) approximately 7 miles of existing NFTS closed roads are proposed for dual management as both roads and as motorized trails open to vehicles 50 inches or less in width; (5) allow both highway licensed vehicles and non-highway licensed vehicles (mixed use) to use approximately 25½ miles of existing NFTS roads currently open to highway licensed vehicles only; and, (6) allow motor vehicles 50 inches or less in width on approximately 4 miles of existing NFTS trails currently open to motorcycles; and convert approximately 6 miles of existing NFTS motorized trails to NFTS non-motorized trails.

More information about the specifics of the process and our proposal is contained on the Forest's website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sixrivers/projects/ohv/index> . We encourage you to check our website for updates. You can also learn more about our proposed action at public workshops in Willow Creek, Mad River, or Eureka, California. Documents and maps will be available for viewing at the Forest Service offices in Willow Creek, Mad River and Eureka.



All public workshops will be open from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm and are scheduled as follows:

- Tues. **January 6** at the Camp Kimtu Cookhouse Kimtu Road, Willow Creek, CA
Thurs. **January 8** at the Mad River Ranger Station 741 Hwy 36, Mad River, CA
Mon. **January 12** at the Six Rivers NF Headquarters, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA

We encourage you to get involved during this stage of the planning process. We know that many people have already invested a lot of time, but at this stage we are hoping you will give us your comments and feedback on our proposed system of routes, so that we can develop alternatives that will address your issues.

This proposed action is the first formal stage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for this project. It is our intent to publish a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in Spring 2009, which will incorporate your comments in analyzing a range of alternatives for a motorized transportation system. The DEIS will offer another opportunity for comment before we publish the Final EIS in Summer 2009. The DEIS will be available on-line. **If you require a printed copy of the DEIS**, please contact Team Leader Leslie Burkhart by mail as listed below, or call 707-441-3520. Please leave a message if there is no one to take your call. Your involvement at every stage can help form a quality motorized trail system on the Lower Trinity and Mad River Districts of the Six Rivers National Forest.

Feel free to contact us with your comments, questions, and requests for more information:

- By **mail**. Address the Travel Management Team, Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501;
- By **e-mail**. Acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) may be submitted to comments-pacificsouthwest-six-rivers@fs.fed.us. Please ensure that "Travel Management" occurs in the subject line.
- By **phone**. You may contact the Lower Trinity District Ranger at 530-629-2118, Mad River District Ranger at 707-574-6233, or Travel Management Team Leader 707-441-3520.

Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in this important project!

Sincerely,

/s/ Nancy J. Gibson, for
TYRONE KELLEY
Forest Supervisor

cc: Kathy Mick
Marlene Finley
George Kulick
Kathy Clement