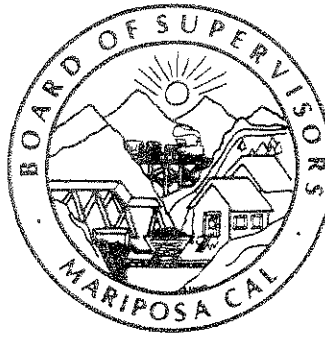


Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 BRAD ABORN
District 2 LYLE TURPIN
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 DIANNE FRITZ
District 5 BOB PICKARD

October 23, 2007



RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board

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Sierra National Forest
Attn: Travel Management
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611

Re: Motorized Travel Management Notice of Intent and Proposed Action Recreation Facility Sites Analysis

Dear Mr. Cole, Forest Supervisor:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Motorized Travel Management Notice of Intent and Proposed Action and the Recreation Facility Sites Analysis documents. We would also like to thank you for extending comment period on these important proposed documents until November 16, 2007.

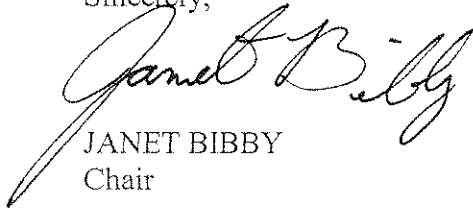
The Board of Supervisors is concerned that unmanaged recreational use on the Sierra National Forest can have adverse impacts to not only the natural resources but could have significant affects on visitor experiences. Tourism is a leading economic generator for the County and any reduction or loss of facilities could have financial impacts if they are not adequately addressed. As described in the briefing documents provided by your office, unplanned trails have been used by the public generally for recreation purposes. Further, it would appear that due to reduced funding and or staffing availability that an inactive approach in managing or enforcing trail use can likely be attributed as leading cause. It is critical for the long term protection of habitat, water quality, and cultural resources and visitors experience that active and ongoing maintenance of trail and road systems on the Sierra National Forest be addressed.

The popularity of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use is on the rise in California and there are several well established and popular trails throughout the Sierra National Forest that have attracted OHV users for many years. As a result, it is imperative that the Forest Service carefully identify and preserve those roads and trails which have had established use and those that have connections to other roads or trails should be preserved and maintained.

Similarly as was expressed for the trail and road maintenance concerns, the lack of funding for recreational facilities is a concern to the County. The proposed Recreation Facility Sites Analysis does show plans to address those facilities which have had established use for approximately 92 out of a total of 116 sites. The County believes it is in everyone's best interest if plans for these particular sites include funding that adequately addresses the long term maintenance and operational needs for continued public use. Enhancing recreational facilities on the Sierra National Forest can improve the visitor experience which should fit in the Analysis and its objectives to maintain community sustainability and be financially sustainable.

The Board of Supervisors wishes again to thank you for the extended period of time to allow for public comments. Also, we hope you will give these comments your careful consideration as you prepare for the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Study on these to documents. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



JANET BIBBY
Chair

Cc: Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
Madera County Board of Supervisors
U.S. Senator, Dianne Feinstein
Congressman, George Radanovich
Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau