

DEPARTMENT: Administration

BY: Rick Benson

PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize the Chairman of the Board Supervisors to sign a letter to the Sierra National Forest Supervisor providing comments regarding the Motorized Travel Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Forest Service is now accepting comments on the Motorized Travel Management DEIS, and the County has the opportunity to provide input on the effects this plan may have on citizens who use the National Forests.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has historically provided comments on plans they believe will have either a positive or negative effect on the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the letter to the Forest Supervisor. Individual members of the Board may submit their own comments.

Financial Impact? () Yes (X) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes () No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$		Draft Letter
Source:		
Internal Transfer		
Unanticipated Revenue	_____ 4/5's vote	
Transfer Between Funds	_____ 4/5's vote	
Contingency	_____ 4/5's vote	
() General () Other		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 09-315 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: 4 Noes: _____
 Absent: Rbor A
 Approved
 Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
 Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
 County of Mariposa, State of California
 By: _____
 Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
 Comments:

CAO: RGB



COUNTY of MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

BRAD ABORN, CHAIR
JANET BIBBY, VICE CHAIR
LYLE TURPIN
KEVIN CANN
JIM ALLEN

DISTRICT I
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT V



MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: RICHARD J. BENSON, CAO

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*

SUBJECT: Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign a Letter to the Sierra National Forest Supervisor Providing Comments Regarding the Motorized Travel Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

RESOLUTION 09-315

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on June 23, 2009

ACTION AND VOTE:

Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign a Letter to the Sierra National Forest Supervisor Providing Comments Regarding the Motorized Travel Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) (County Administrative Officer/Personnel/Risk Manager)

BOARD ACTION: Discussion was held with Rick Benson and he advised of Supervisor Aborn's request for a sixty day extension of the comment period. Discussion was held relative to the letter and suggested revisions. (M)Allen, (S)Cann, Res. 09-315 was adopted approving the letter, with the addition of a request for an extension of thirty days because of the poor quality of the maps, including the computer versions; with the inclusion of a statement that the staging area could also be used for emergency personnel and fire suppression equipment staging; and with the deletion of the sentence relative to communications; and directing that any constituent information that has been received in writing be forwarded to the Forest Service/Ayes: Turpin, Bibby, Cann, Allen; Excused: Aborn.

Cc: File

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 BRAD ABORN
District 2 LYLE TURPIN
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JIM ALLEN



RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board
P.O. Box 784
MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA 95338
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June 23, 2009

Edward C. Cole, Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, California 93611

RE: Motorized Travel Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Dear Forest Supervisor Cole:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Sierra National Forest proposed **Motorized Travel Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement**. Mariposa County is concerned that the plan will severely limit available campgrounds for recreational use and we believe that campgrounds are a wonderful resource that should be encouraged rather than limited.

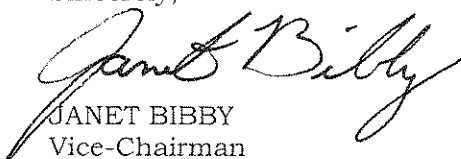
We also have concerns that parking cars and trucks along roads would create fire and other safety hazards for visitors; that additional and unnecessary damage to roads will lead to increased maintenance costs, and that off road parking will be detrimental to our efforts to control noxious weeds.

Mariposa County strongly recommends that the Forest Service consider establishing designated staging areas for the off-highway users. By implementing staging areas the off road users will have less impact on all other forest users. Staging areas also can be of great benefit to emergency personnel, allowing for placement of equipment during fires and search and rescue operations.

During recent public meetings there was considerable concern and confusion regarding the maps outlining the roads under review, including the online maps. In order to assure that the public is fully informed, Mariposa County urges a 30 day extension of the public comment period. Attached for your review are copies of correspondence recently received by Mariposa County regarding this issue.

Mariposa County supports the efforts of the Forest Service to develop a plan which provides for a balanced approach to protecting the environment while continuing to meet the recreational needs of visitors. Thank you for your consideration regarding our concerns.

Sincerely,



JANET BIBBY
Vice-Chairman

JB/RB/mbh

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Congress Member George Radanovich
Senator Dave Cogdill
Assembly Member Tom Berryhill
State of California Parks and Recreation OHV Division
California State Association of Counties
Regional Council of Rural Counties
William Haigh, Bureau of Land Management, Folsom District Office
Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento State Office
Dave Price, California Highway Patrol
Chief Dale Hutchinson, CAL FIRE
Dave Uberuaga, Yosemite National Park Superintendent
Brian Muller, Mariposa County Sheriff
Jim Wilson, Mariposa County Fire Chief