



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

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June 19, 2012

Mr. Ed Armenta, Supervisor
Inyo National Forest
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Inyo National Forest Plan Update/Revision

Dear Supervisor Armenta:

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, thank you for attending our workshop on April 17 to discuss the impending Inyo National Forest Plan Update/Revision. As you know, we are more than just a stakeholder in the planning process; we represent the people of Inyo County through a democratic process, and we attempt to balance the viewpoints of all of our constituents and sift through the vast amount of materials necessary to participate in planning for the Inyo National Forest. Below, based on our discussion and with the input of our Natural Resource Advisory Committee, are our priorities for the Update/Revision.

- Access – enhanced to accommodate vehicular use, packing, hunting, hiking, and other recreational opportunities, as well as mining and other uses of the Forest. Mitigation opportunities for potential environmental impacts resulting from increased access should be identified and implemented.
 - Roads and trails should be protected and expanded to provide access for recreation and exploration for natural resources and other uses of the Forest, including grazing, mining, and the activities of native peoples (such as gathering).
 - Roadless Areas should be identified for removal as they are no longer relevant or roadless.
 - Conflicts between biological resources and human access should be identified and planned for.
- Vibrant Economy – the Plan should contribute substantially to the local economy due to the impact of the Forest on the County's culture and fiscal health, and should not result in significant socioeconomic impacts.
 - Grazing, Mining, Renewable Energy Production, and other Uses – the Plan should support and encourage consumptive and sustainable uses of the Forest to contribute to the County's economy and culture.
 - Roads and trails should be protected and expanded to provide access for recreation and exploration for natural resources. This type of recreation is an important economic driver for the County.
 - Mitigation Bank – opportunities to shift land acquisition for mitigation of environmental impacts to restoration of degraded wilderness areas should be incorporated into the Plan to accommodate mitigation of human development elsewhere in the County.
- Local Culture – the Plan should support and enhance the culture of local communities to the extent social and cultural issues revolve around the forest.

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- Public Safety – access and accommodation for public safety purposes should be of paramount concern in the Plan, including for law enforcement (such as eradicating illegal drug production), fire management and suppression, and search and rescue.
- Provide access to the Forest for gathering activities, prospecting, sightseeing, exploration, and camping.
- Provide a continuing voice to the people living around the forest through their local government representatives.

The Inyo National Forest is of vital importance to Inyo County, and we look forward to working with you and your team over the coming years to craft a locally sustainable Plan that contributes positively to our society and culture. Our General Plan Government Element provides more detailed guidance regarding the County's priorities, and we encourage you to refer to it and on the County's website at http://inyoplanning.org/general_plan/goals.htm.

If you have any questions, please contact the County's Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, at (760) 878-0292 or kcarunchio@inyocounty.us. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Marty Fortney, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

cc: Board of Supervisors
Kevin Carunchio, CAO
Randy Keller, County Counsel
Joshua Hart, Planning Director
Doug Wilson, Willdan
Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee
Regional Council of Rural Counties
California State Association of Counties
National Association of Counties
Secretary Vilsak, USDA
Randy Moore, Pacific Southwest Regional Forester, USFS
Chief Tidwell, USFS
Susan Joyce, USFS
Sustainable Forest Action Coalition