

- Reduce the amount of fuel that currently exists and that created by vegetation treatment activities. Treatment could include lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning; creating fuel breaks along roads and adjacent to private property, particularly those properties with houses and subdivisions. Prescribed broadcast burning of up to 14,200 acres is also planned to not only reduce fuel levels, but also benefit big game and other wildlife resources.

- Thin and harvest approximately 23,500 acres of pine stands using a variety of treatments to reduce the overall density of pine trees and create a mosaic of structural stages across the landscape. Both commercial and non-commercial sized trees would be removed utilizing multiple contracts including stewardship, timber sale, and service contracts.

Responsible Official

Robert J. Thompson, District Ranger, Mystic Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest, 8221 South Highway 16, Rapid City, SD 57702.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The decision to be made is whether or not to implement the proposed action or possible alternative at this time.

Scoping Process

Comments and input regarding the proposal will be received via direct mailing from the public, other groups and agencies during the initial public comment period in October and November 2007. If you would like to be more involved, a public meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 8, 2007 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the City Hall conference room in Hill City, South Dakota. Comments submitted based on this NOI will be most useful if received within 30 days from the date of this notice. Response to the draft EIS will be sought from the interested public beginning in February 2008.

Comment Requested

This NOI provides information that the agency will prepare an environmental impact statement in response to public comment and feedback during the October and November 2007 scoping period. Comments received will assist the planning team to identify key issues and opportunities used to refine the proposal or possible alternatives. Comments on the DEIS will be requested during the 45 day comment period following the Notice of Availability, expected to be published

in the **Federal Register** in February 2008 (See discussion below).

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review: The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 533 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points. (Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, section 21)

Dated: October 17, 2007.

Craig Bobzien,

Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest.
[FR Doc. 07-5273 Filed 10-24-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lassen National Forest, California, Lassen National Forest Public Wheeled Motorized Travel Management EIS

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Lassen National Forest (LNF) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to disclose the impacts associated with the following proposed actions: 1. The prohibition of wheeled motorized vehicle travel off designated National Forest System (NFS) roads, NFS trails and areas by the public except as allowed by permit or other authorization. 2. The addition of approximately 37 miles of unauthorized routes to the NFS of roads and motorized trails. 3. The addition of approximately 26 acres for open riding (10 areas), where use of wheeled motorized vehicles by the public would be allowed anywhere within the specifically delineated area. 4. Allowing non-highway legal vehicle use on approximately 12 miles of existing NFS roads where such use is currently prohibited.

DATES: The comment period on the proposed action will extend 30 days from the date the Notice of Intent is published in the **Federal Register**.

Completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is expected in March of 2008 and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is expected in June of 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send electronic comments to: ltmrd@fs.fed.us. Send written comments to: Travel Management Team, Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Allen Nosler, Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130. Phone: (530) 252-6637. E-mail: anosler@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Over the past few decades, the availability and capability of motorized vehicles, particularly off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and sport utility vehicles (SUVs) has increased tremendously. Nationally, the number of OHV users has climbed sevenfold in the past 30 years, from approximately 5 million in 1972 to 36 million in 2000. The ten states with the largest population also have the most OHV users. California has 4.35 million OHV

users accounting for almost 11% of the U.S. total (Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation in the United States, Regions and States: A National Report from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE), Cordell, Betz, Green and Owens, June 2005). There were 786,914 all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and OHV motorcycles registered in 2004, up 330% since 1980. Annual sales of ATVs and OHV motorcycles in California were the highest in the U.S. for the last 5 years. Four-wheel drive vehicle sales in California also increased by 1500% to 3,046,866 from 1989 to 2002.

OHV recreation provides riding opportunities to some of California's most scenic areas. However, unmanaged OHV use has resulted in unplanned roads and trails, erosion, watershed and habitat degradation, and impacts to cultural resource sites. Compaction and erosion are the primary effects of OHV use on soils. Riparian areas and aquatic dependent species are particularly vulnerable to OHV use. Unmanaged recreation, including impacts from OHVs, is one of "Four Key Threats Facing the Nation's Forests and Grasslands" (USDA Forest Service, June 2004).

In January 2001, the Regional Forester issued management direction of all California national forests to prohibit OHV travel off designated routes and areas (FEIS for the Sierra Nevada Framework Project). This direction was re-affirmed in January 2004 with a supplemental FEIS for the Sierra Nevada Framework Project. On August 11, 2003, the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service entered into a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) with the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission, and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. That MOI set in motion a region-wide effort to "Designate OHV roads, trails, and any specifically defined open areas for motorized wheeled vehicles on maps of the 18 National Forests in California by 2007."

On November 9, 2005, the Forest Service published final travel management regulations in the **Federal Register** (FR Vol. 70, No. 216—Nov. 9, 2005, pp. 68264–68291). This final Travel Management Rule requires designation of those roads, trails, and areas that are open to motor vehicle use by the public on National Forests. Designations will be made by class of vehicle and, if appropriate, by time of year. The final rule prohibits the use of motor vehicles by the public off the designated system as well as use of

motor vehicles on routes and in areas that are not designated.

On some NFS lands, long managed as open to cross-country motor vehicle travel, repeated use has resulted in unplanned and unauthorized roads and trails. These routes generally developed without environmental analysis or public involvement, and do not have the same status as NFS roads and NFS trails included in the forest transportation system. Nevertheless, some unauthorized routes are well-sited, provide excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation by motorized and non-motorized users, and would enhance the National Forest system of designated roads, trails and areas. Other unauthorized routes are poorly located and cause unacceptable impacts. Only NFS roads, NFS trails and open riding areas can be designated for wheeled motorized vehicle use. In order for an unauthorized route to be designated for use by the public, it must be added to the national forest transportation system (NFTS).

In accordance with the MOI, the LNF recently completed an inventory of unauthorized routes on NFS lands and identified approximately 1,145 miles of unauthorized routes. The LNF then used an interdisciplinary process to conduct travel analysis that included working with the public to determine whether any of the unauthorized routes should be proposed for addition to the LNF transportation system. Travel analysis developed a number of routes which could be considered in this or future decisions on the NFTS at the discretion of the Responsible Official. Roads, trails and areas that are currently part of the LNF transportation system and are open to wheeled motorized vehicle travel will remain designated for such use except as described below under the Proposed Action. This proposal focuses only on the prohibition of wheeled motorized vehicle travel off designated routes and areas and other needed changes to the LNF transportation system, including the addition of some user-created routes to the LNF transportation system and minor changes to existing motor vehicle restrictions. The proposed action is being carried forward in accordance with the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR Part 212).

In accordance with the rule, following a decision on this proposal, the Lassen National Forest will publish a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) identifying all LNF roads, trails and areas that are designated open for motor vehicle use by the public. The MVUM shall specify the classes of vehicles and, if appropriate, the times of year for which use is authorized. The MVUM will be

updated and published annually (or more frequently if needed) when changes to the Forest's transportation system are made. Future decisions associated with changes to the MVUM may trigger the need for documentation of additional environmental analysis.

Purpose and Need for Action

The following needs have been identified for this proposal:

1. There is a need for regulation of unmanaged wheeled motorized vehicle travel by the public. Currently, wheeled motorized vehicle travel by the public is temporarily prohibited off existing routes and areas by Forest Order #06–07–1. The Forest Order became effective on July 12, 2007. Prior to that date, wheeled motorized vehicle travel off road was permitted in many LNF areas. In their enjoyment of the National Forest, motorized vehicle recreationists have created numerous unauthorized routes. The number of such routes continues to grow each year with many routes having environmental impacts and safety concerns that have not been addressed. The Travel Management Rule, 36 CFR part 212, provides policy for ending this trend of unauthorized route proliferation and managing the Forest transportation system in a sustainable manner through the designation of motorized NFS roads, trails and areas, and the prohibition of cross-country travel.

2. There is a need for limited changes and additions to the LNF transportation system to:

- 2.1. Provide wheeled motorized access to dispersed recreation opportunities (camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, etc.)

- 2.2. Provide a diversity of wheeled motorized recreation opportunities (4X4 vehicles, motorcycles, ATVs, passenger vehicles, etc.)

It is Forest Service policy to provide a diversity of motorized road and trail opportunities for experiencing a variety of environments and modes of travel consistent with the LNF land capability (FSM 2353.03(2)). In meeting these needs the proposed action must also achieve the following purposes:

- A. Avoid impacts to cultural resources.

- B. Provide for public safety.

- C. Provide for a diversity of recreational opportunities.

- D. Assure appropriate access to public and private lands.

- E. Provide for adequate maintenance and administration of roads, trails and areas based on availability of resources and funding to do so.

- F. Minimize damage to soil, vegetation and other forest resources.

G. Minimize impacts to wildlife and significant degradation of wildlife habitat.

H. Minimize conflicts between wheeled motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of NFS lands or neighboring federal lands.

I. Minimize conflicts among different classes of wheeled motor vehicle uses of NFS lands or neighboring federal lands.

J. Address compatibility of wheeled motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account sound, emissions, etc.

K. Have valid existing rights of use and access (rights-of-way).

L. Minimize trespass on private and other adjacent non-NFS lands.

Proposed Action

1. Prohibition of wheeled motorized vehicle travel off the designated NFS roads, NFS trails and areas by the public except as allowed by permit or other authorization.

2. Additions to the National Forest Transportation System—The LNF currently manages and maintains approximately 3629 miles of NFS roads and 55 miles of NFS motorized trails.

Based on the stated purpose and need for action, and as a result of the recent

travel analysis process, the LNF proposes to add approximately 30 miles of existing unauthorized routes to its NF road system and approximately 7 miles to its NF motorized trail system. These additions would bring the total NFS roads to approximately 3,659 miles and the NFS motorized trails to 62 miles.

The proposed additions to the additional NF road and NF motorized trail systems are listed below along with the permitted vehicle class and season of use.

TABLE 1.—PROPOSED NFS MOTORIZED ROAD ADDITIONS

Route ID	Length (miles)	Permitted vehicle class	Season of use
290407UC01	0.4004	All	Year round.
310716UC01	0.0107	All	Year round.
310716UC02	0.0506	All	Year round.
UBB412	0.0379	All	Year round.
UBB414	0.8733	All	Year round.
UBB416	0.1164	All	Year round.
UBB685	0.0099	All	Year round.
UBB686	0.0021	All	Year round.
UBB707	0.0821	All	Year round.
UBB707A	0.0476	All	Year round.
UBB752	0.0314	All	Year round.
UBB797	0.0347	All	Year round.
UBB798	0.1109	All	Year round.
UBB799	0.0239	All	Year round.
UBB800	0.2112	All	Year round.
UBB806	0.0564	All	Year round.
UBB809	0.82	All	Year round.
UBC022	0.0348	All	Year round.
UBC105	0.2778	All	Year round.
UBC115	0.3238	All	Year round.
ULA106	0.292	All	Year round.
ULA107	0.2375	All	Year round.
ULA113	0.1795	All	Year round.
ULA114	0.2032	All	Year round.
ULA115	0.1555	All	Year round.
ULA120	0.1528	All	Year round.
ULA121	0.3526	All	Year round.
ULA121	0.0168	All	Year round.
ULA121-1	0.1019	All	Year round.
ULA122	0.0486	All	Year round.
ULA123	0.1214	All	Year round.
ULA124	0.1409	All	Year round.
ULA127	0.9703	All	Year round.
ULA136	0.0683	All	Year round.
ULA156	0.1152	All	Year round.
ULA158	0.0802	All	Year round.
ULA163	0.0952	All	Year round.
ULA164	0.0711	All	Year round.
ULA171	0.3349	All	Year round.
ULA252	0.0833	All	Year round.
ULA254	0.0949	All	Year round.
ULA257	0.2861	All	Year round.
ULA272B	0.5626	All	Year round.
ULA488	0.1443	All	Year round.
ULA488-1	0.1367	All	Year round.
ULA489A	0.0996	All	Year round.
ULA489B	0.081	All	Year round.
UMN003	0.0659	All	Year round.
UMN004	0.1862	All	Year round.
UMN005	0.054	All	Year round.
UMN008	0.3266	All	Year round.
UMN009	0.2773	All	Year round.
UMN010	0.0271	All	Year round.

TABLE 1.—PROPOSED NFS MOTORIZED ROAD ADDITIONS—Continued

Route ID	Length (miles)	Permitted vehicle class	Season of use
UMN012	0.0409	All	Year round.
UMN805	0.5868	All	Year round.
UNE080	0.1098	All	Year round.
UNE087	0.0235	All	Year round.
UNH001	1.0481	All	Year round.
UNH006	1.1766	All	Year round.
UNHO19	0.4891	All	Year round.
UNH026	0.5648	All	Year round.
UNH529	0.2216	All	Year round.
UNH533	1.0575	All	Year round.
UNH534	0.6381	All	Year round.
UNH535	0.2756	All	Year round.
UNH541	0.2311	All	Year round.
UNH543	0.7002	All	Year round.
UNH546	0.231	All	Year round.
UNH548	0.7396	All	Year round.
UNH550	0.2728	All	Year round.
UNH552	0.0614	All	Year round.
UNO170	0.8193	All	Year round.
UNO171	0.5343	All	Year round.
UNO178	0.5094	All	Year round.
UNO180	0.3356	All	Year round.
UNO216	0.3619	All	Year round.
UNO219	0.106	All	Year round.
UNO220	0.8504	All	Year round.
UNO221	0.1942	All	Year round.
UNO222	1.1577	All	Year round.
UNO229	1.18	All	Year round.
UNO230	0.1106	All	Year round.
UNO275	0.4896	All	Year round.
UNW100	0.4022	All	Year round.
UNW113	0.2267	All	Year round.
UNW318	0.1526	All	Year round.
UNW337	0.1043	All	Year round.
UNW338	0.7712	All	Year round.
UNW339	0.2989	All	Year round.
UNW340	0.3278	All	Year round.
UNW342	0.1635	All	Year round.
UNW353	0.2301	All	Year round.
UNW355	0.5582	All	Year round.
UNW356	0.443	All	Year round.
UNW358	0.2471	All	Year round.
UNW359	0.2005	All	Year round.
UNW364	0.2813	All	Year round.
UNW506C	0.1385	All	Year round.
UNW602	0.084	All	Year round.
UNW675	0.1212	All	Year round.
UNW676	0.1293	All	Year round.
UNW804	0.2822	All	Year round.
UNW805	0.3495	All	Year round.
Total	30.3383		

TABLE 2.—PROPOSED NFS MOTORIZED TRAIL ADDITIONS

Route ID	Length (miles)	Permitted vehicle class	Season of use
280310UC03	0.2306	All*	Year round.
UAP205	0.0653	Vehicles less than 50 inches in width	Year round.
UAP206	0.6591	Vehicles less than 50 inches in width	Year round.
UBC046	0.0937	All	Year round.
UBC053	0.5811	All	Year round.
UBC057	0.2671	All	Year round.
UBC058	0.3758	All	Year round.
UDC001	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC002	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC003	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC004	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC009	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC010	0.0379	All	Year round.

TABLE 2.—PROPOSED NFS MOTORIZED TRAIL ADDITIONS—Continued

Route ID	Length (miles)	Permitted vehicle class	Season of use
UDC011	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC012	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC013	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC014	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC015	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC016	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC017	0.0379	All	Year round.
UDC021	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC022	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC023	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC024	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC045	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC046	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC049	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC047	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC048	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC052	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC053	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC054	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC055	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC056	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC057	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC058	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC059	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC060	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC061	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC062	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC063	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC064	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC065	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC066	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC067	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC025	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC026	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC027	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC028	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC034	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC044	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC031	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC032	0.0095	All	Year round.
UDC043	0.0284	All	Year round.
ULA172	0.9473	Vehicles less than 50 inches in width	Year round.
ULA175	0.3724	Vehicles less than 50 inches in width	Year round.
ULA177	0.4268	Vehicles less than 50 inches in width	Year round.
ULA187	0.1228	Motorcycle	Year round.
ULA190	0.9158	All	Year round.
UNE392	0.3182	All	Year round.
UNE394	0.9117	All	Year round.
Total	7.1223		

*All approved motorized trail modes of travel.

3. Motorized Open Riding Area Additions—The Lassen National Forest currently has no areas designated open to wheeled motorized vehicle use. The

Lassen National Forest proposes to designate 10 specifically delineated areas open to wheeled motorized vehicle travel for a total of 26 acres. The

motorized areas are listed below along with the permitted vehicle class and season of use.

TABLE 3.—PROPOSED NFS MOTORIZED OPEN RIDING AREA ADDITIONS

Area name	Acreage	Permitted vehicle class	Season of use
West Dusty Cinder Pit	1.91	Less than 50 inches	4/1 to 11/1.
Lost Lake Cinder Pit	2.54	Less than 50 inches	4/1 to 11/1.
West Brown Ranch	1.76	Less than 50 inches	4/1 to 11/1.
Sandy Beach West	1.10	Less than 50 inches	4/1 to 11/1.
Sandy Beach East	4.96	Less than 50 inches	4/1 to 11/1.
East McCoy	3.02	All	4/1 to 11/1.
South Old Station	4.29	All	4/1 to 11/1.

TABLE 3.—PROPOSED NFS MOTORIZED OPEN RIDING AREA ADDITIONS—Continued

Area name	Acreage	Permitted vehicle class	Season of use
Potato Butte	4.32	Less than 50 inches	4/1 to 11/1.
Little Antelope Valley Pit	0.85	Less than 50 inches	4/1 to 11/1.
Butte Valley	1.13	Less than 50 inches	4/1 to 11/1.
Total	25.88		

4. Allowing Non-Highway Legal Vehicle Access on NFS Roads That Are Maintained for Use by Highway Legal Vehicles. The LNF believes the roads listed in the table below would enhance wheeled motorized recreation

opportunities for the public if they were open to use by all vehicle classes. The LNF will evaluate the safety hazards associated with allowing highway legal and non-highway legal vehicle use by the public on these roads. The LNF may

allow segments of these roads as open to all vehicles where it is determined that it will not create a traffic safety hazard or that hazards can be mitigated.

TABLE 4.—NFS ROAD SEGMENTS CURRENTLY OPEN TO HIGHWAY LEGAL VEHICLES ONLY PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION AS OPEN TO ALL VEHICLES

Route ID	Route segment	Length (miles)	Current permitted vehicle class	Proposed permitted vehicle class	Season of use
31N17/DR17	From 30N17 to 31N45 (Dry Lake)	1.83	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N10/DR10	From 32N10A to 31N24 (Silver Lake, Rocky Knoll).	1.69	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N10/DR10	From 31N24 to 31N25 (Stephens Camp)	1.15	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N10C	(Caribou Lake Spur)	0.18	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
29N03	From 29N20Y to 29N03B (Roxie Peconom)	1.24	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N08	From CA 44 to 32N23 (Bogard Work Center)	0.81	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N10/DR10	From CA 44 to 32N22 (Bogard Rest Area)	1.34	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N10/DR10	From 31N15 to 31N28 (Stephens Camp)	0.14	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N22	From 32N53 to UNE394 (Bogard Rest Area)	0.19	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N22	From 32N10/DR10 to 32N29 (Bogard Rest Area)	0.14	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N60	From 32N73Y to 32N73Y (Grays Flat)	1.76	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N12	From 32N42Y to 31N13 (Twin Bridges)	0.28	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N12	From 32N38 to 32N42Y (Twin Bridges, Badger Mountain north).	1.60	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
32N13	From 32N12 to 32N12Y (Twin Bridges)	1.46	Highway legal only	All	Year round.
Total	12.81			

Maps and tables describing in detail both the LNF transportation system and the proposed action can found at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/1asses/12rotects/NEPA_proiectshoute/index.php.

In addition, maps will be available for viewing at:

Lassen National Forest, Region 5, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130.

Almanor Ranger District, 900 E. HWY 36, Chester, CA 96020.

Eagle Lake Ranger District, 477–050 Eagle Lake Road, Susanville, CA 96130.

Hat Creek Ranger District, 43225 E. HWY 299, Fall River Mills, CA 96028.

Responsible Official

Jack Walton, Acting Forest Supervisor, Supervisor’s Office, Lassen National Forest, Region 5, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The responsible official will decide whether to adopt and implement the proposed action, an alternative to the proposed action, or take no action to make changes to the existing Lassen National Forest Transportation System and prohibit cross country wheeled motorized vehicle travel by the public off the designated system. Once the decision is made, the Lassen National Forest will publish a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) identifying the roads, trails and areas that are designated as open to the public for motor vehicle use. The MVUM shall specify the classes of vehicles and, if appropriate, the times of year for which use is authorized.

Scoping Process

Public participation will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from the federal, state, and local agencies and other individuals or

organizations who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action.

The Notice of Intent is expected to be published in the **Federal Register** on October 24, 2007. The comment period on the proposed action will extend 30 days from the date the Notice of Intent is published in the **Federal Register**.

The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to be available for public review by March 7, 2008. EPA will publish a notice of availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the **Federal Register**. The comment period on the draft EIS will extend 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the NOA in the **Federal Register**. At that time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, and members of the public for their review and comment. It is very important that those interested in the management of the Lassen National Forest participate at that time. Submission of comments in response to the draft EIS is a

prerequisite for eligibility to appeal under the 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in June 2008. In the final EIS, the Forest Service will respond to comments received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decision.

Comment Requested

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage, but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft environmental impact statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality

Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, section 21)

Jack T. Walton,

Acting, Lassen National Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 07-5272 Filed 10-24-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on November 13, 2007 at the US Forest Service Office, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150. This Committee, established by the Secretary of Agriculture on December 15, 1998 (64 FR 2876), is chartered to provide advice to the Secretary on implementing the terms of the Federal Interagency Partnership on the Lake Tahoe Region and other matters raised by the Secretary.

DATES: The meeting will be held November 13, 2007, beginning at 1 p.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the US Forest Service Office, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arla Haines, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 543-2773.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Items to be covered on the agenda include: 1) Preliminary presentation by Tahoe Basin agencies of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 9 hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention projects; 2) Lake Tahoe SNPLMA Round 9 science themes; Lake Tahoe SNPLMA Round 9 project nomination form and Round 9 calendar/timeframes; and 3) Public Comment. All Lake Tahoe Basin Federal Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend at the above address. Issues may be brought to the attention of the Committee during the open public comment period at the meeting or by filing written statements with the secretary for the Committee before or after the meeting. Please refer any written comments to the Lake

Tahoe Basin Management Unit at the contact address stated above.

Dated: October 18, 2007.

Terri Marceron,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 07-5274 Filed 10-24-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: South Pacific Tuna Act.

Form Number(s): None.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0218.

Type of Request: Regular submission.

Burden Hours: 199.

Number of Respondents: 22.

Average Hours Per Response: License application, 15 minute; regional application/VMS registration, 45 minutes; purse seine transshipment logsheet, 1 hour; and unloading logsheet, 30 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration collects license, registration, catch, and unloading information from purse seine vessels fishing within a large region of the central and western Pacific Ocean governed by the Treaty of Fisheries between the governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the government of the United States of America. The information collected is required to meet obligations under the Treaty.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Annually and on occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk