

County Contract No.

Department
Clerk of the Board

TRINITY COUNTY
Board Item Request Form
2010-03-02

1.02

Contact

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Requested Agenda Location

Presentations AM

Requested Board Action:

Representatives of USFS-Six Rivers National Forest to appear and give update on Travel Management Plan

Fiscal Impact:

Motion:_____ Second_____ Roll Call: Ayes:_____ Nays:_____ Tabled To:_____

Action:

Notes:

Lower Trinity Mad River Motorized Travel Management Summary of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

PROPOSED ACTION

The Six Rivers National Forest (Six Rivers NF) proposes the following actions: (1) Prohibit cross-country motor vehicle travel off designated National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) roads and motorized trails by the public except as allowed by permit or other authorization (excluding snowmobile use); (2) Add 55 miles of unauthorized routes to the current NFTS as motorized trails and co-locate 3 miles of motorized trail on existing NFTS closed roads; and (3) Reclassify 42 miles of existing NFTS roads and motorized trails by vehicle type or season of use and remove 6 miles of motorized use from NFTS trails.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Internal and external scoping identified the following significant issues and these issues were used to assist in development of the action alternatives. The significant issues are the following:

Table 1. List of Significant Issues

Issue Topic	Cause and Effect
1. Access and Recreation Opportunity	The proposed action unreasonably restricts motorized recreation use. The prohibition on cross-country travel will severely limit recreation opportunities and access, and the addition of only 58 miles of motorized trails to the NFTS provides insufficient public access to Six Rivers NF lands and unfairly limits motorized recreation.
2. Non-motorized Opportunity	Public motorized use of roads and trails as described in the Proposed Action will negatively affect non-motorized recreation opportunity and Inventoried Roadless Area character (engine noise, dust, conflicts, and aesthetic values).
3. Resource Impacts	Public motorized use of roads and trails as described in the Proposed Action will negatively affect forest resources.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL

The Six Rivers NF developed four alternatives: the No Action, the Proposed Action, and two additional action alternatives to meet the purpose and need and to respond to the significant issues listed above. The four alternatives considered in detail for this analysis are listed in Table 2 below. Complete details of the alternatives are found in Chapter 2.

Table 2. List of Alternatives Considered in Detail

Alternative 1: No Action Alternative	<p>The No Action alternative provides a baseline for comparing the other alternatives. This alternative maintains the status quo. Under the No Action alternative, current management plans would continue to guide management of the project area. No changes would be made to the current NFTS and no cross-country travel prohibition would be put into place. Travel Management Rule would not be implemented, and no Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) would be produced. Motor vehicle travel by the public would not be limited to designated routes. The agency would take no affirmative action on any unauthorized routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not prohibit cross-country motor vehicle travel • Adds no new NFTS roads or motorized trails
Alternative 2: Proposed Action (Identified as the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS)	<p>The Proposed Action is the proposed changes to the NFTS and the prohibition of cross-country travel as described in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published December 19, 2008 on the Federal Register (Volume 73, Number 245) with minor corrections. The Proposed Action proposes to: (1) Prohibit cross-country motor vehicle travel off designated National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) roads and motorized trails by the public except as allowed by permit or other authorization (excluding snowmobile use); (2) Add 55 miles of unauthorized routes to the current National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) as motorized trails and co-locate 3 miles of motorized trails on NFTS closed roads; and (3) Reclassify 42 miles of existing NFTS roads and motorized trails by vehicle type or season of use and remove 6 miles of motorized use from NFTS trails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits cross-country travel

Alt 2 (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds 58 miles of NFTS motorized trails • Changes vehicle class on 25 miles of NFTS roads • Changes vehicle class on 4 miles of NFTS motorized trail • Removes 6 miles of motorized use from NFTS trail • Establishes wet weather season of use on 13 miles of NFTS motorized trails, and added routes where necessary: June 1 to Oct 31
Alternative 3: The Preferred Alternative	<p>This alternative responds to the issue of restricting motorized recreation opportunity. It includes all actions identified for the Proposed Action (as corrected), 1) adds an additional 7 miles of motorized trails to the NFTS, and 2) expands season of use for motorized trails for consistency with season of use on the NFTS roads which access the NFTS motorized trails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits cross-country travel • Adds 65 miles of NFTS motorized trails • Changes vehicle class on 25 miles of NFTS roads • Changes vehicle class on 4 miles of NFTS motorized trail • Removes 6 miles of motorized use from NFTS trail • Establishes wet weather season of use on 13 miles of NFTS motorized trails, and added routes where necessary, consistent with NFTS access roads: Mad River District, May 1 to Nov 15; Lower Trinity District, June 1- October 31
Alternative 4:	<p>This alternative provides another baseline for comparing other alternatives and responds to the issues of non-motorized recreation experience and negative effects to forest resources. The Travel Management Rule would be implemented, and a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) reflecting the current NFTS would be published. Public use of unauthorized routes would be prohibited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits cross-country travel • Establishes season of use on 13 miles of NFTS motorized trails consistent with NFTS access roads: May 1 to Nov 15

SUMMARY OF CHANGES BETWEEN DRAFT AND FINAL EIS

The table below summarizes the changes to the alternatives between the Draft and Final EIS.

Table 3. Summary of Changes between Draft and Final EIS

Alternative 1: No Action	No change between draft and final.
Alternative 2: Proposed Action (Identified as Preferred Alternative in DEIS)	<p>Additions to Motorized Trails: 5.01 less miles are proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorten length of unauthorized route: - 0.71 miles • Remove unauthorized routes: - 0.89 miles • Remove co-located routes: - 3.41 miles <p>Add dust abatement mitigation for naturally occurring asbestos on 1.55 miles of routes.</p> <p>Add weed, waterbar, and route definition mitigations where appropriate.</p> <p>Remove Combination and Wildlife (limited operating period) Season of Use dates.</p> <p>Remove Port Orford cedar Season of Use on all trails, except JM722.</p>
Alternative 3: Expanded Recreation (Preferred Alternative)	<p>Additions to NFTS Motorized Trails: 5.42 less miles are proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorten length of unauthorized route: - 1.16 miles • Remove unauthorized routes: - 0.98 miles • Add route MM864: length 0.07 miles. • Remove co-located routes: - 3.41 miles • Add 3N05 as co-located route: 0.06 miles <p>Add dust abatement mitigation for naturally occurring asbestos on 1.55 miles of routes.</p> <p>Add weed, waterbar, puncheon, and route definition mitigations where appropriate.</p> <p>Remove Combination and Wildlife (limited operating period) Season of Use dates.</p> <p>Remove Port Orford cedar Season of Use on all trails, except JM722.</p> <p>Remove weed mitigations from 4.99 miles.</p>
Alternative 4: Environmentally Preferred	No change between draft and final.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The table below summarizes the environmental consequences by providing an average ranking of each alternative by resource area. Detailed information can be found in Chapter 3.

Table 4. Summary Comparison of Alternatives by Resource Average Ranking

Resource Area	Rankings of Alternatives, Averaged Across Indicators ¹			
	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 4
3.3 Geology	2.5	3.25	2.75	4.0
3.4 Soil Resources	1.0	2.6	2.4	3.1
3.5 Water Resources	1.0	3.0	2.0	4.0
3.6 Aquatic Biota	1.0	3.2	2.5	3.5
3.7 Terrestrial Wildlife	1.0	3.0	2.0	4.0
3.8 Botanical Resources	1.0	3.0	2.0	4.0
3.9 Noxious Weeds	1.0	3.0	2.0	4.0
3.10 Port-Orford Cedar	1.0	3.0	2.0	4.0
3.11 Cultural Resources	1.0	3.0	2.0	4.0
3.13 Visual Resources	1.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
3.14 Motorized Recreation	4.0	2.0	3.0	1.0
3.15 Inventoried Roadless	1.0	3.0	2.0	4.0

¹A score of 4 indicates the alternative has the greatest potential beneficial impact for the specified resource; a score of 1 indicates the alternative is the greatest potential for adverse impact for specified resource.