



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Sequoia National Forest
Giant Sequoia National
Monument

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File Code: 1950

Date: June 12, 2007

Sequoia National Forest Public Wheeled Motorized Travel Management Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Begins

In recent years, the use of motorized wheeled vehicles in the Kern River District and Hot Springs District, outside of the Giant Sequoia National Monument, has grown substantially. This increased use led to development of user-created trails, increased conflict between motorized and non-motorized uses, complaints about noise from adjacent landowners, and areas of degraded soil, water, and vegetation conditions.

The purpose of the Sequoia National Forest motorized travel management project is to regulate wheeled motorized vehicle travel by the public and to make limited changes and additions to the forest transportation system.

The forest plan and the national travel management rule direct that all motorized wheeled vehicle use be restricted to a system of designated routes. This system of designated roads, trails, and areas for motor vehicle use, established with public involvement, will enhance public enjoyment of the Sequoia National Forest, while maintaining other important values and uses on the national forest.

It is Forest Service policy to provide a diversity of trail opportunities for experiencing a variety of environments and modes of travel consistent with the national forest recreation role and land capability [Forest Service Manual 2353.02 (2)]. Motor vehicles are a legitimate and appropriate way for people to enjoy their national forests in the right places and with proper management.

A notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and the proposed action for motorized travel management are enclosed. The NOI explains the proposed action for the route designation activities shown in the following table:

| Proposed Route Additions and Changes | Miles |
|---|-------|
| Existing Unauthorized routes added as National Forest System (NFS) motorized trails | 71.0 |
| Existing unauthorized routes added to NFS roads open to all vehicles | 0.9 |
| Closed NFS roads changed to NFS motorized trails | 21.8 |
| NFS Roads open to all vehicles changed to NFS motorized trails | 8.4 |
| Closed NFS roads changed to NFS roads open to all vehicles | 23.2 |
| NFS roads open to vehicles changed to closed NFS roads | 19.5 |
| Highway legal vehicle only NFS roads changed to NFS roads open to all vehicles | 12.4 |
| NFS road open to highway legal vehicles only changed to NFS motorized trail | 0.5 |



In addition, the proposed action would change approximately 5,500 acres of semi-primitive non motorized (SPNM) to semi-private motorized (SPM), to allow motorized vehicle use on the trail north of Dry Meadows to continue.

The proposed action would also prohibit wheeled motorized vehicle use off of designated NFS roads, NFS trails, and areas by the public, except as allowed by permit or other authorization.

An interdisciplinary team (IDT) will prepare an EIS, which will disclose the environmental consequences of the proposed action, as well as alternatives to the proposed action that will address relevant concerns and ideas submitted by the public.

The specific routes that are included in the previous table are listed in the enclosures. Maps 1 through 4, displaying the routes (trails and roads) that would be open to motorized wheeled vehicle use and the types of vehicles that would be allowed on each route, are available on the forest's website: http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/projects/ohv_route_designation_strategy/index.html. In addition, maps will be available for viewing at:

Supervisor's Office, 1839 South Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257

Kern River Ranger District, 105 Whitney Road, Kernville, CA 93238

The NOI will be published in the Federal Register on June 15, 2007. Please send your comments, issues, and feedback on the proposed action, in writing, to Chris Sanders, Sequoia National Forest, 1839 South Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257, by **July 16, 2007**. Comments may also be e-mailed to sequoia.route.designation@fs.fed.us. Please do not e-mail comments to an individual's e-mail address. We will not be replying to your scoping comments.

The IDT will use your feedback to help identify the significant issues regarding travel management. Alternatives to the proposed action will be developed, and the environmental consequences of both the proposed action and the alternatives will be analyzed. Based on this analysis, a draft EIS will be prepared.

The draft EIS is expected to be released for comment by September 2007 for a minimum of 45 days. Copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to agencies, organizations, and interested and affected members of the public for their review and comment. It is very important that those interested in route designation on the Sequoia National Forest participate at that time. A final EIS is scheduled to be completed by September 2008.

Public field trips will be held to allow the public to view the project areas prior to a decision on the project. Information on the times, dates, locations, and agendas for these and other public meetings will be provided in local newspapers, on the Sequoia National Forest website, and by direct mailings.

The Importance of Substantive Comments

Substantive comments apply to the feedback and comments you submit. Substantive comments may include things other than thoughts or feelings; they may also be factual, new information, corrections, etc. Comments will be most helpful when they are within the scope of the proposed action, specific to the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. Please be aware that the written comments we receive on this proposal, including names and addresses, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection.

Ways to Keep in Contact

We want to keep you informed of how we use your feedback and how we are progressing with the motorized travel management project. We plan to keep the following web page up to date with information: http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/projects/ohv_route_designation_strategy/index.html. We will be as timely as possible within the constraints of available staffing.

If you do not wish to comment on the proposed action, but you are interested in continuing to receive information from us, regarding this project, please send your name and physical mailing address to: Chris Sanders, Sequoia National Forest, 1839 South Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257. Those who comment will automatically continue to receive information regarding this project.

I am looking forward to hearing from you as we work together to manage wheeled motorized vehicle travel on the Sequoia National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina J. Terrell", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

TINA J. TERRELL
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

Sequoia National Forest

Motorized Travel Management

Table 1. Existing Unauthorized Routes Added as National Forest System (NFS) Motorized Trails

| Route Number | Length (Miles) | Type of Vehicle | Season of Use |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| U00008 | 0.3 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00009 | 2.4 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00015 | 0.5 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00017 | 1.2 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00027 | 0.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00029 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00035 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00041 | 0.9 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00043 | 0.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00045 | 1.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00049 | 4.5 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00051 | 0.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00052 | 0.8 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00054 | 1.8 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00062 | 0.3 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00065 | 2.9 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00073 | 2.5 | Motorcycles | 7/15-11/15 |
| U00080 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00081 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00110 | 1.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00111 | 1.7 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00114 | 0.5 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00124 | 0.2 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00129 | 0.3 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00130 | 0.3 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00131 | 1.3 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00135 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00138 | 0.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00141 | 0.8 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00145 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00149 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00150 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 7/15-11/15 |
| U00152 | 1.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00161 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |

| Route Number | Length (Miles) | Type of Vehicle | Season of Use |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| U00162 | 0.6 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00163 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00166 | 0.3 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00167 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00212 | 1.3 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00220 | 0.8 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00223 | 1.8 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00224 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00231 | 0.3 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00240 | 0.4 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00251 | 1.4 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00254 | 0.9 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00310 | 0.5 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00324 | 0.2 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00331 | 0.3 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00351 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00365 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00410 | 0.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00424 | 0.3 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00441 | 0.6 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00444 | 0.9 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00465 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 7/15/11/15 |
| U00510 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00531 | 0.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00532 | 1.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00541 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00544 | 0.8 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00633 | 1.4 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00641 | 0.8 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00651 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00712 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00731 | 1.3 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00831 | 2.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U00931 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01000 | 1.5 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01001 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01002 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01020 | 0.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01032 | 0.4 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01033 | 0.2 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01035 | 0.9 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01036 | 0.2 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01041 | 0.7 | All | 5/25-11/15 |

| Route Number | Length (Miles) | Type of Vehicle | Season of Use |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| U01042 | 0.2 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01043 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01051 | 0.7 | All | Year-round |
| U01055 | 2.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01088 | 1.0 | All | Year-round |
| U01095 | 0.7 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01096 | 0.3 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01097 | 0.5 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01110 | 0.2 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01111 | 0.5 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01113 | 0.6 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01130 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01132 | 0.9 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01135 | 3.7 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01136 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01137 | 0.4 | All | Year-round |
| U01144 | 0.3 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01145 | 0.4 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01149 | 3.6 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01158 | 0.2 | All | Year-round |
| U01184 | 0.1 | All | Year-round |
| U01185 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | Year-round |
| U01187 | 0.2 | Motorcycles | Year-round |
| U01201 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | Year-round |
| U01202 | 0.1 | Motorcycles | Year-round |
| U01223 | 0.2 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01224 | 0.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| U01234 | 1.1 | Motorcycles | 7/15-11/15 |
| Total | 71.0 | | |

Sequoia National Forest

Motorized Travel Management

Table 2. Existing Unauthorized Routes Added to NFS Roads, Open to All Wheeled Motorized Vehicle Use

| Route Number | Route Name | Length (Miles) | Type of Vehicle | Season of Use |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | | | | |
| 24S07A | Sandy Creek | 0.2 | All | 5/1-11/15 |
| 25S39 | Silver Strand | 0.3 | All | 5/15-11/15 |
| 26S24A | Lone Star | 0.1 | All | 5/1-11/15 |
| 28S62C | Grouse Spring | 0.1 | All | 5/15-11/15 |
| 28S67A | Democrat Beaches | 0.2 | Highway legal | Year-round |
| Total | | 0.9 | | |

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Motorized Travel Management

Table 3. Closed NFS Roads Changed to NFS Motorized Trails, Open to Motorized Wheeled Vehicle Use

| Route Number | Route Name | Length (Miles) | Type of Vehicle | Season of Use |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 25S04G | Alder Creek | 0.2 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| 25S04H | Alder Creek | 0.3 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| 25S27 | Black Mountain | 1.1 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| 25S28A | Owl Mine | 0.4 | Motorcycles | 5/15-11/15 |
| 25S36 | Black | 1.0 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| 26S09 | Woodward | 1.2 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| 26S18 | Evans Flat West | 0.7 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| 26S20 | Likely Saddle | 1.9 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| 26S33 | Mayflower | 1.0 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| 27S02A | Saddle Spring Campground | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| 27S02B | Piute Mountain | 0.6 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| 27S02C | Piute Mountain | 0.6 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| 27S02D | Piute Mountain | 0.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| 27S02E | Piute Mountain | 0.5 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| 27S02F | Piute Mountain | 0.9 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| 28S04A | Sunset | 1.3 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| 28S08A | Golf Meadow | 1.1 | All | 5/1-11/15 |
| 28S24C | Woolstaff Meadow | 1.1 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| 28S29 | Cold Springs North | 0.6 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| 28S34 | Squirrel Meadow | 0.2 | All | 5/15-11/15 |
| 28S43 | North Piute Mountain | 2.5 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| 28S44 | Solomon's Ridge | 3.4 | All | 5/25-11/15 |
| 29S19 | B&C Mill | 1.0 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| Total | | 21.8 | | |

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Motorized Travel Management

Table 4. NFS Roads, Open to All Vehicles, Changed to NFS Motorized Trails, Open to All Wheeled Motorized Vehicle Use

| Route Number | Route Name | Length (Miles) | Season of Use |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 26S06 | Black Gulch | 4.6 | 5/1-11/15 |
| 26S25 | Oak Ridge | 2.1 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 27S30A | Rec Mine | 0.9 | 5/1-11/15 |
| 28S44A | Solomon's Ridge | 0.5 | 5/25-11/15 |
| 28S60 | Faust Mill | 0.3 | 5/25-11/15 |
| Total | | 8.4 | |

Sequoia National Forest

Motorized Travel Management

Table 5. Closed NFS Road Changed to NFS Roads Open to All Wheeled Motorized Vehicle Use

| Route Number | Route Name | Length (Miles) | Season of Use |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 24S08 | Tobias Peak Lookout | 1.3 | 5/25-11/15 |
| 24S31 | East Horse Meadow | 1.3 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 24S50A | Greenhorn Mountain | 0.5 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 24S77 | East Horse | 1.5 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 24S80 | Lower Dry Meadow | 1.2 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 25S11 | Greenhorn East | 0.7 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 25S19 | Cow Creek | 1.0 | 5/1-11/15 |
| 25S36 | Black | 0.2 | 5/25-11/15 |
| 25S38 | Bull Run Basin | 1.7 | 5/1-11/15 |
| 25S38A | Bull Run Basin | 0.5 | 5/1-11/15 |
| 26S19 | Rhymes | 0.5 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 26S24 | Lone Star | 1.9 | 5/1-11/15 |
| 27S10 | Hooper Hill | 0.1 | Year-round |
| 28S04 | Sunset | 1.8 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 28S09A | Cow Flat | 0.4 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 28S19 | O'Brian Springs | 1.3 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 28S25 | Moreland Mill | 0.7 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 28S40 | Mack | 2.3 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 29S03 | Gallup | 3.1 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 29S07 | Waterhole Mine | 1.2 | 5/15-11/15 |
| Total | | 23.2 | |

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Motorized Travel Management

Table 6. NFS Roads Open to All Wheeled Motorized Vehicles Changed to Closed NFS Roads

| Route Number | Route Name | Length (Miles) |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 23S32A | Scarlet & Davis Canyon | 0.9 |
| 24S10 | Portuguese Meadow | 0.7 |
| 24S15A | Portuguese Meadow | 0.5 |
| 24S35A | Schultz Creek | 0.8 |
| 24S45 | Stormy Canyon | 0.3 |
| 24S46A | Deep Creek | 0.5 |
| 25S06 | Tiger Flat Campground | 0.1 |
| 25S14 | Cedar Creek | 1.5 |
| 25S15D | Rancheria | 0.3 |
| 25S16 | Calf Creek | 1.0 |
| 25S45 | Fay Ranch | 3.4 |
| 26S01A | Greenhorn Mountain West | 0.4 |
| 26S06 | Black Gulch | 1.2 |
| 26S06A | Black Gulch | 0.1 |
| 26S06B | Black Gulch | 0.1 |
| 26S13B | Davis | 0.1 |
| 26S16 | Old Likely Mill | 3.0 |
| 26S18A | Evans Flat West | 0.5 |
| 26S27A | Evans Flat Campground | 0.1 |
| 27S01 | Rough and Ready Mountain | 0.2 |
| 27S01A | Rough and Ready Mountain | 0.6 |
| 27S29 | Group Camp | 0.3 |
| 27S37 | China Garden | 0.4 |
| 27S37A | China Garden | 0.4 |
| 28S07C | Breckenridge Lookout | 0.1 |
| 28S18A | Brown Meadow | 0.3 |
| 28S30 | Cold Springs South | 0.5 |
| 28S33 | Piute Spring | 0.7 |
| 28S81 | Dougherty Creek | 0.5 |
| Total | | 19.5 |

Sequoia National Forest

Motorized Travel Management

Table 7. NFS Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only Changed to NFS Roads, Open to All Wheeled Motorized Vehicles

| Route Number | Route Name | Length (Miles) | Season of Use |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 24S24 | Tobias Meadow | 3.6 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 24S86 | Frog Meadow | 0.6 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 25S07 | Cedar Creek Campground | 0.2 | 5/1-11/15 |
| 25S21 | Cooks Peak | 4.4 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 26S19 | Rhymes | 0.3 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 26S27 | Evans Flat Campground | 1.2 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 27S37 | China Garden | 0.2 | Year-round |
| 28S21 | Breckenridge Campground | 0.3 | 5/15-11/15 |
| 29S02 | Franceschi Mine | 1.6 | 5/15-11/15 |
| Total | | 12.4 | |

Sequoia National Forest

Motorized Travel Management

Table 8. NFS Road Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only Changed to NFS Motorized Trail

| Route Number | Route Name | Length (Miles) | Type of Vehicle Allowed | Season of Use |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | |
| 28S24D | Woolstaff Meadow | 0.5 | Motorcycles | 5/25-11/15 |
| Total | | 0.5 | | |