



Roads Analysis

Mendocino National Forest

Forest-scale RAP Newsletter #3

September 9, 2002

Key Routes Identified

The Mendocino National Forest Leadership Team has identified the roads they consider to be key routes for accessing lands within Mendocino NF (see map on page 2). The team considered public comments and roads analysis information to determine which roads met the key route criteria.

The criteria were proposed and modified during initial public involvement in January and February of this year, and are listed below. There are both positive and negative criteria for determining whether a road is a Key Route. Positive criteria that apply to a road increase its importance; negative criteria that apply to a road tend to detract from its importance.

Positive Criteria

Does the road provide access...

- between communities across the MNF?
- to communities within the MNF?
- to popular recreation sites or trailheads?
- to significant tracts of commercial timber?
- for silvicultural and fuels treatment on significant areas of Late Successional Reserve?
- to significant concentrations of private land inholdings?
- to high use administrative sites?
- between large areas within the MNF?

Negative Criteria

Does the road ...

- have high, adverse resource impacts?
- have high maintenance costs?
- duplicate other access route(s) that have lower resource impacts or maintenance costs?

A map of the key routes is on page 2. Road-specific conditions, issues and opportunities related to the key routes will be addressed in the Forest scale RAP report.

What About Other Roads?

Some people have asked if the Forest Service will close all of the roads that are not identified as key routes. The short answer is 'No'.

Decisions to close roads would not be made until after watershed or project scale roads analysis has been conducted. That is the scale at which roads are determined to be "needed" or "unneeded". However, the forest-scale roads analysis report will provide some guidelines for making this determination.

Road closure is only one of several ways to reduce costs, and we don't anticipate a need for extensive permanent closures. Most of the marginal and duplicate Key Route candidates that did not get identified as key routes will likely be determined to be in the "needed" category. They do meet at least one of the positive key route criteria, which implies a higher than average level of access need.

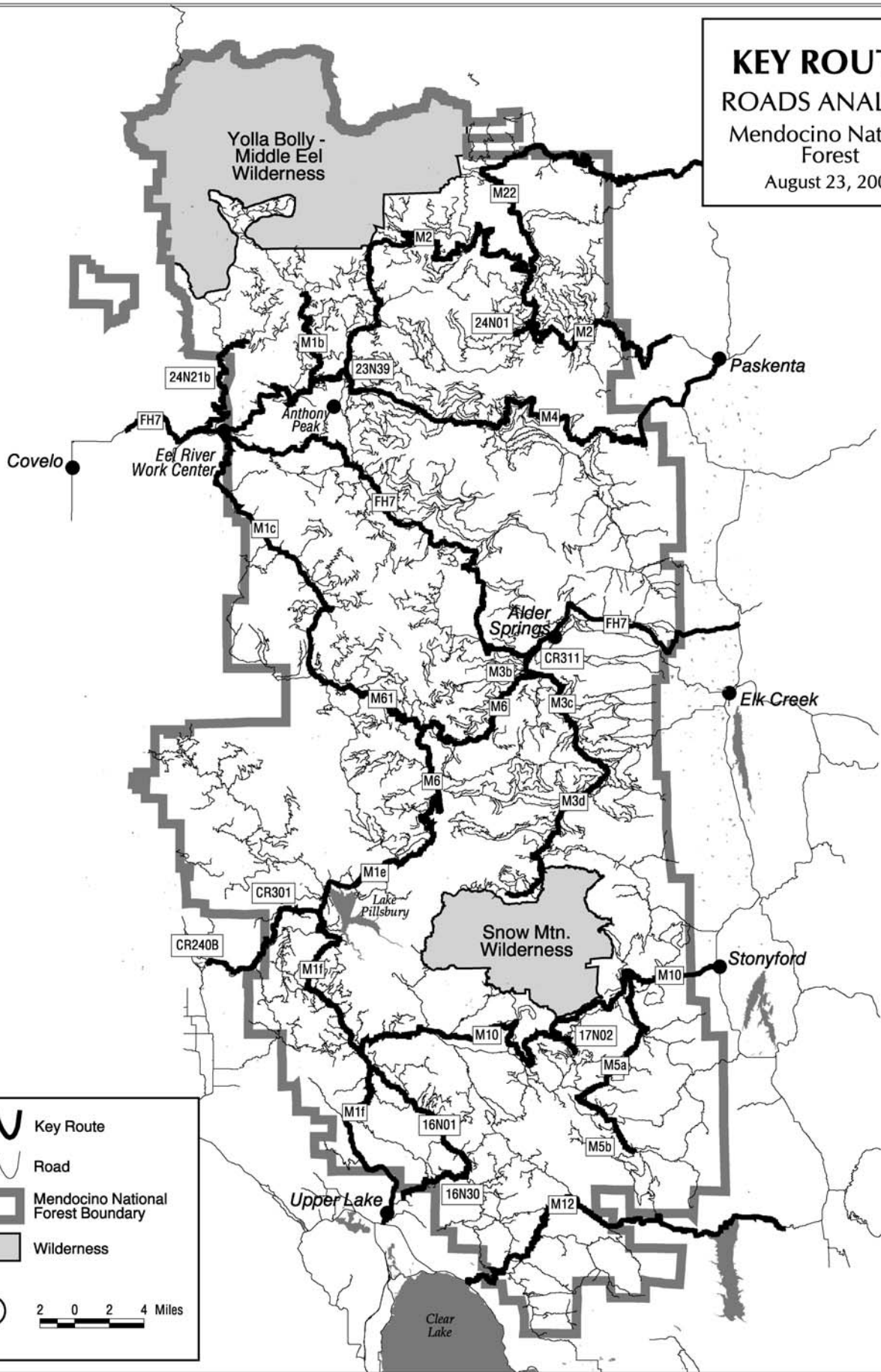
People will have an opportunity to participate in watershed and project scale roads analysis, and in environmental analysis of road closure proposals.

To Contact Us:

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**KEY ROUTES
ROADS ANALYSIS**
Mendocino National Forest
August 23, 2002



Key Route
 Road
 Mendocino National Forest Boundary
 Wilderness
 North
 2 0 2 4 Miles