



AGENDA REQUEST FORM
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF INYO

For Clerk's Use Only:
AGENDA NUMBER

- Consent Departmental Correspondence Action Public Hearing
 Scheduled Time for Closed Session Informational

FROM: Inyo County Planning Department

FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF: March 3, 2015

SUBJECT: Inyo National Forest Plan Update/Revision – County Priorities

RECOMMENDATION: Review and confirm the County Priorities developed by the Board of Supervisors in 2012 and updated in 2015 for the Inyo National Forest Plan Update/Revision.

SUMMARY DISCUSSION: The Inyo National Forest (INF) is working on updating the INF Plan.¹ At its April 17, 2012 meeting, the Board conducted a workshop, reviewed draft priorities to guide the work effort, and directed staff to present the priorities to the Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) and to then return with draft correspondence to the Forest Service for the Board's consideration. The NRAC considered the draft priorities on May 23, 2012 and unanimously recommended support. The Board subsequently authorized the attached correspondence on June 19, 2012 identifying the County's Priorities. Staff has utilized the Priorities to guide its work on the Forest Plan Update since.

Staff distributed the County's Priorities to the Board on January 13, 2015 during a semi-regularly scheduled agenda item to brief the Board about progress in coordinating the INF Plan Update/Revision. At that meeting, staff was directed to agendize the Priorities for further discussion. The Board then considered the Priorities at its February 3, 2015 meeting, and provided input to staff to update the priorities. Staff is now presenting the updated Priorities to the Board for its review.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service; Mono, Fresno, Madera, and Tuolumne counties; Town of Mammoth Lakes and City of Bishop; other interested persons and organizations.

FINANCING: General fund resources are utilized to monitor planning work in the Forest. Resources for Willdan's assistance with the effort are funded by operating transfer from the Geothermal Royalties fund.

¹ Refer to <http://inyoplanning.org/InyoNationalForest.htm> for more information about the County's participation in the Plan Update/Revision.

APPROVALS

COUNTY COUNSEL:	AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS AND ORDINANCES AND CLOSED SESSION AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by county counsel prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
AUDITOR/CONTROLLER:	ACCOUNTING/FINANCE AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the auditor-controller prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR:	PERSONNEL AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the director of personnel services prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE:
(Not to be signed until all approvals are received)



Date: 2/25/15

Attachment – Updated Priorities

- Access – a sustainable road system should be implemented to 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 or evaluation ifas they are not 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 ProductionRecreation, and other Multiple 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.
 - Use permits should be facilitated and streamlined for timely issuance and evaluated based upon scientific criteria.
 - 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.
 - 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, expioration, and camping.
 - Provide a continuing voice to the people living around the forest through their local government representatives.
 - Increase use of partnering with local communities, agencies, and non-profits.