



CITY OF BISHOP

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February 9, 2015

Mr. Ed Armenta
Forest Supervisor
Inyo National Forest
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93541

Dear Ed Armenta:

The community of Bishop shares a large amount of landmass with the Inyo National Forest, meaning that the future of our community is inexorably linked to the relative effectiveness of the management program of the Inyo National Forest. We are the living definition of a "gateway community", offering a full service portal to diverse recreation activities and experiences that visitors access through our community on the Inyo National Forest. Our economy and quality of life are deeply rooted in the recreation and tourism opportunities of our unique setting.

Residents of the City of Bishop have actively participated in the recently convened Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative (ESRC), and with this letter, we extend our support on behalf of their efforts and encourage your review of the "ESRC Proposed Recreation Strategy" as recently shared with you by the ESRC.

In preparation for the next phase of the Inyo National Forest management plan revision process, your planning team is working to develop Draft Alternatives to be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and we would like to offer the following recommendations for your consideration:

- Work with the Regional Forester to extend the DEIS schedule to allow for reasonable opportunities for the "ESRC Proposed Recreation Strategy" to be reviewed and appropriately integrated into the draft alternatives of the DEIS.
- Strategically integrate the USFS "Framework for Sustainable Recreation" into the draft alternatives of the DEIS. This USFS document provided a baseline roadmap for the ESRC, as it lays out important opportunities for engaging with today's "facts on the ground" on public lands and anticipates future conditions for the Inyo NF.

- Consider integrating the ESRC collaborative model into future Inyo NF planning efforts. We believe that bringing together diverse interests to collaboratively engage with important land management issues leads to efficiency and publicly supported decisions.

We trust you will accept these recommendations in the spirit of partnership and a shared desire to elevate the importance of recreation and collaboration to benefit the public lands of the Inyo National Forest, the community of Bishop, and the Eastern Sierra region.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Tatum
City Administrator