

Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative: "Citizen Suggested Desired Conditions"

During the summer months of 2016, the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative (ESRC) convened and facilitated 5 public meetings in Gateway Communities of the Eastern Sierra. The effort was focused on identifying and further developing Desired Conditions in support of Sustainable Recreation as part of the revision process of the Inyo National Forest's Land Management Plan, and was funded by a generous grant from the National Forest Foundation. The pages that follow document the Citizen Suggested Desired Conditions supporting Sustainable Recreation for the Inyo National Forest's Land Management Plan, and are organized into the following five Emphasis Areas:

Desired Conditions as Defined by the US Forest Service:

"Desired conditions describe the aspirations or visions of what the plan area (or portions thereof) should look like in the future and drive the development of the other plan components. Desired conditions essentially set forth the desired landscape of the future and the other plan components give guidance on how to get there."

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"A desired condition is a description of specific social, economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. A desired condition description is specific enough to allow progress toward achievement to be determined but does not include a completion date."

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ESRC Forest Plan Revision Efforts Funded in part by the National Forest Foundation

Founded by Congress in 1991, the National Forest Foundation works to conserve, restore and enhance America's 193-million-acre National Forest System. Through community-based strategies and public-private partnerships, the NFF helps enhance wildlife habitat, revitalizes wildfire-damaged landscapes, restores watersheds, and improves recreational resources for the benefit of all Americans.

Emphasis Areas Desired Con	nditions in Existing INF Plan by rea	ESRC Citizen Suggested Plan Revisions by Emphasis Area and Subgroupings
Volunteers/ Interpretation/ Partnerships/ Stewardship (VIPS) Subgroupings: (A) Partnerships – General (B) Partnership Coordinator (C) Partnerships – Local Government (D) Volunteers (E) Interpretive/ Signage/ Education (F) Stewardship Develop other pr local gor guide co local per (PDF Pg. FW-GOA Maintain partners governn organiza that leve funding contribut sustaina (PDF Pg. Volunte Steward For partners an easily becomin expectar partner. (PDF Pg. Partners	o memoranda of agreements or rotocols between the forest and vernments as appropriate to cordination processes and reflect respectives and interests .93 – Local Communities – LOC-AL 01) In and expand contracting and ship opportunities with local ments, businesses and ations. Develop partnerships erage different sources of to support opportunities to ute to the economic and social ability of local communities. .94 – ers/Interpretation/Partnerships/dship – VIPS-FW-GOAL 03) est should designate a ship coordinator who will define y understood process for ing a partner as well as tions for both the forest and the	NOTE: Inyo National Forest is referenced throughout the Citizen Suggested Plan Revision comments as INF (A) Partnerships – General Desired Conditions: The INF collaborates with a variety of partners to provide stewardship and interpretive services that enhance responsible recreation and habitat health Management Approach: INF to provide a clear, concise process for partnership development and Implementation and a succinct and easy to understand and readily available summary of the types of agreements, contracts and mechanisms they will use to work with future partners Explore, facilitate and implement local adopt-a-trail programs and INF consider hiring coordinator to manage an adopt-a-trail program INF to develop an annual work plan to share with partners The INF has developed economic partnerships to help fill the gaps in funding for the provision of recreation opportunities INF to consult user groups regarding maintenance of roads and trails Create a "Recreation Users Council" made up of reps of the various user groups to monitor/ mitigate and resolve any user conflicts on trails (possible future role for ESRC) Partner with groups like ES 4WD club to sign and maintain roads and develop information on trips for users less familiar with the area Potential Standards: Winter recreation/ snowplay areas built and maintained with local partners New sustainable mountain bike trails built and maintained by local organizations Sponsor for cleaning of trails and trailheads Include people with disabilities both physical and other disabilities by including volunteer to assist a partnership Local organizations manage/ maintain INF campgrounds; local NGO's have assumed the role of campground hosts and work closely with INF to provide interpretive programs to the public

Emphasis Areas	Desired Conditions in Existing INF Plan by Emphasis Area	ESRC Citizen Suggested Plan Revisions by Emphasis Area and Subgroupings
	➢ Install and maintain appropriate multilingual information boards, interpretive panels and regulatory signs at developed sites and dispersed areas within sites of sensitive resources. (PDF Pg. 157 − Appendix D: Management Strategies for Resolving Recreation Resource Conflicts)	(B) Partnership Coordinator Desired Conditions: Through a Partnership Coordinator and a Volunteer Coordinator the INF has increased volunteer program activities and partner contributions to enhance INF stewardship and monitoring Management Approach: Identify/ employ a forest staff person to develop external partners to support trails maintenance & construction of new trails Hire a Partnership Coordinator to work with various interpretive groups INF should commit to hiring a full time Partnership Coordinator within 2 years of the plan release Potential Standards: Feedback loop from public at kiosks (C) Partnerships – Local Government Desired Conditions: Trails program is thriving across the entire forest, wilderness areas, OHV areas, urban interface; utilizing local governments and non-profits for trails and related infrastructure development and maintenance Management Approach: Partner with local governments to establish functioning partnerships that will fund improvements: roads, facilities, campgrounds will benefit local economies and will actually steward the landscape and natural resources. INF to consider a collaborative approach to planning that will include local government planning, policies, and regulations to the degree possible

Emphasis Areas	Desired Conditions in Existing INF Plan by Emphasis Area	ESRC Citizen Suggested Plan Revisions by Emphasis Area and Subgroupings
		Potential Standards: INF to partner with Town of Mammoth Lakes for improved shuttle service to the Lakes Basin and other trail heads
		(D) Volunteers Desired Conditions: Proactive program to encourage volunteers and coordinate their contribution including but not limited to: research, interpretation, maintenance, planning and improvements. Establish regular community gatherings to recruit volunteers.
		Management Approach: Within two years of plan approval, hire a really well informed and impartial Volunteer Coordinator Develop robust volunteer corps for Wilderness Ranger programs and interpretive talks, trail maintenance and enforcement (citizen stewards)
		Potential Standards: Signs are not enough; there needs to be human contact/ communications to educate and interact; e.g. trail head hosts – volunteers who interact with the public at trail heads and Volunteer Patrollers to interact with public out on trails
		(E) Interpretive/ Signage/ Education Desired Conditions: Recreation information, signage and interpretive programs are well-funded abundant and consistent with accurate and up-to-date information The INF provides adequate interpretive signage and information so forest users understand how to recreate legally and responsibly
		Management Approach: Formally engage local schools in student led interpretation, creation of interpretive materials, citizen science projects, and monitoring of the forest environment, education and stewardship, understanding ecosystems and conservation projects.

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		Potential Standards:
		Increased information available offsite for visitor planning ahead of time to stimulate new experiences which visitors might not consider otherwise including interactive and visual information
		Signs, tours, and other tools provide information in a variety of languages and for users of multiple abilities
		Emphasize "how to behave appropriately" regarding sanitation, trash management, camping ethics, in interpretive materials and programs. Consider better utilization of permittees to provide education and information to visitors.
		Offer interpretation and education based upon natural history and Native American heritage
		(F) Stewardship
		<u>Desired Conditions:</u> The INF has state of the art developed recreational facilities that are updated, maintained, and patrolled by forest staff, established partners, and volunteers
		Management Approach:
		Establish annual monitoring of recreation use, impacts, and trends (using combo of staff and trained volunteers with "citizen science" protocols) and integrate an adaptive management program to reflect changes/data collected
		Redirect budgetary priorities to develop and maintain professional stewardship to increase viable employment and permanent residency
		Potential Standards:
		Professional trail crews maintain and develop trails
		Well maintained and safe trails provide opportunities and access for multiple user groups INF staff and partners represent the demographic and cultural diversity of California's population

Emphasis Areas	Desired Conditions in Existing INF Plan S by Emphasis Area	ESRC Citizen Suggested Plan Revisions by Emphasis Area and Subgroupings
Digital Connection	 Work with local governments, businesses, and organizations to collect 	(A) Technology Desired Conditions: INF has the flexibility to use emerging media and technology to connect people with their
Subgroupings:	economic data to track changes for businesses in sectors dependent on	public lands within and beyond the immediate area
(A) Technology	forest activities. (PDF Pg. 94 – Local Communities – LOC-	Management Approach:
(B) Data	FW-GOAL 03)	A functional system allows for timely recruitment, hiring, training agency staff Need regulations to identify acceptable recreation drone activities on the national forest
(C) Emergency Services	Regularly report potential projects	Create mechanism for forest users to report current trail conditions, etc. (e.g. email, text, online form)
(D) User Systems	suitable for partnership and volunteer opportunities to the public.	Modernize a website that is clean, responsive and basically navigable and provides relevant recreation information and maps. Consider developing an app to complement the website
(E) Accessibility	(PDF Pg. 94 – Volunteers/Interpretation/Partnerships/Stewardship – VIPS-FW-GOAL 02)	and utilize partners to assist with website and app management. INF could make public land available for placement of digital tech equipment and expedite permitting for infrastructure equipment
	> To the extent practical, harmonize	Potential Standards:
	recreation direction for forest visitors to minimize confusion when crossing	Determine how to bridge traditional communication channels (some of us don't use digital tech) with evolving technology to keep all with communication access
	administrative boundaries.	Use technology solutions to minimize the impact of infrastructure (e.g. signs) on the landscape
	(<mark>PDF Pg. 95</mark> – Sustainable Recreation – REC-FW-GOAL 02)	Use technology and digital connection to provide maps and improve wayfinding Enhance interactive GIS tools for trail stewards; for example integrating map with direct
	> Provide and update interpretive signage,	link to trail management objectives
	wayside exhibits, publications and programs using a variety of media and methods. (PDF Pg. 98 – Potential Management Approaches-	(B) Data Desired Conditions: INF conducts regular visitor use and economic studies using traditional and emerging technologies to inform adaptive management of forest and recreation resources
	Volunteers/Interpretation/Partnerships/	Management Approach:
	Stewardship)	Collect and share data across all agencies (USFS, NPS, FWS, BLM)

Explore partnership opportunities with user groups and seek reliable information sources outside of the agency to improve data collection and data management on recreation use and demand.

(PDF Pg. 148 – App B: Proposed and Possible Actions – Sustainable Recreation)

INF creates a better process for collecting information about how people use the forest, where they go, what they like to do, and what information they need

Potential Standards:

Use of drones for scientific research, surveying, mapping, and monitoring forest Passive technology such as triggered cameras to collect data: user data, wildlife data, etc.; incorporated throughout the forest in a manner that does not detract from wilderness experience

Visitors have a clear way to report resource damage, trail problems, trash and other recreation problems to the INF

(C) Emergency Services

Desired Conditions:

INF partners with local agencies to upgrade emergency communication technology for Eastern Sierra communities and visitors

Management Approach:

Send avalanche condition reports daily to subscribers via text messages (gathered from ESAC)

Potential Standards:

911 connectivity throughout forest with GPS location automatic

(D) User Systems

Desired Conditions:

Consensus what is acceptable and not acceptable in use of technology as effects forest users including noise, privacy, drones, safety, effect on wildlife, etc. and consider developing clear guidelines for such use

Management Approach:

Develop mobile app maps utilizing device GPS to guide users on the forest which could include interpretive info in the app; app would be standalone considering lack of cell service; e.g. topo GPS program but narrowed to INF roads and trails

Provide digital and online connection to USFS/ INF maps and USGS topo maps

Potential Standards:
Backcountry permit reservation system that is mobile compatible with online reservation,
check in using mobile device at ranger station
Clear regulations on personal drone use on Forest lands
It would be nice to have some areas outside where one can get away from EMF waves
The NVUM is very inadequate – utilize technology to capture current and accurate info
GPS program usable on the roads and trails to keep us on legal trails
Use a QR code to allow permitted hikers to download trail info to their smart phones
(E) Accessibility
Desired Conditions:
Interpretive signage and exhibits that are inclusive and accessible to as many visitors as
possible; non-technology, technology, language and accessibility such as braille
Management Approach:
Develop with partners an app for INF interpretive info and self-guided tours for both adults
and children in at least English and Spanish
Potential Standards:
Availability of GPS on trails with no cell service; this allows for data collection, location for
safety and many more opportunities for improvement
Better coverage of Wi-Fi and map hot spots (notification of where hot spots are located
and where coverage is limited)

Responsive Use Permitts Subgroupings: (A) Permit System (B) User Experience (C) Stewardship Provisions (D) Partnership Engagement (D) Partnership Engagement (D) Permit System India and use on National Forest System and sand adjacent lands of other ownership. (PDF Pg. 48 — Lands — LAND-FW-DC 02) Work with local governments, businesses and organizations to assist in permit processes, including providing technical assistance, processing programmatic environmental clearance, and other measures to streamline the time and expense of permitting. (PDF Pg. 147 — Appendix B: Proposed and Possible Actions — Local (A) Permit System Desired Conditions: INF staff accommodates and streamlines an efficient and forward looking permitting possible Actions — Local (A) Permit System Desired Conditions: INF staff accommodates and streamlines an efficient and forward looking permitting process Wanagement Approach: Management Approach: Approve or reject with rationale all requests for permits and expedite the permit process Ensure/enforce the ban on commercial promotion/ advertising on public land Keep good databases of issued permits and utilize that information when issuing new permits to streamline the process INF should have ombudsman for resolving forest permit problems INF welcomes and promotes research activities on the forest consistent with resource protection and other goals Potential Standards: 25% of all permit fees are retained at the local level as an incentive to raise funds for local projects Transparency of all permits with clear guidance Use of real time electronic communication for tracking permits Expedited permit process for fastest and most efficient service Place-based consideration for permits; different places may require different type of permit requirements (B) User Experience Desired Conditions:	Emphasis Areas	Desired Conditions in Existing INF Plan by Emphasis Area	ESRC Citizen Suggested Plan Revisions by Emphasis Area and Subgroupings
Communities) communities/ developed recreation areas	Permits Subgroupings: (A) Permit System (B) User Experience (C) Stewardship Provisions (D) Partnership	recreation special events or guided activities, are consistent with recreation settings, protect natural and cultural resources and support community goals. (PDF Pg. 43 – Sustainable Recreation – REC-FW-DC 11) Coordination of land resource planning efforts with other federal, state, tribal, county and local governments, and adjacent private landowners, promotes compatible relationships between activities and uses on National Forest System lands and adjacent lands of other ownership. (PDF Pg. 48 – Lands – LAND-FW-DC 02) Work with local governments, businesses and organizations to assist in permit processes, including providing technical assistance, processing programmatic environmental clearance, and other measures to streamline the time and expense of permitting. (PDF Pg. 147 – Appendix B: Proposed and Possible Actions – Local	Desired Conditions: INF staff accommodates and streamlines an efficient and forward looking permitting process Management Approach: Approve or reject with rationale all requests for permits and expedite the permit process Ensure/ enforce the ban on commercial promotion/ advertising on public land Keep good databases of issued permits and utilize that information when issuing new permits to streamline the process INF should have ombudsman for resolving forest permit problems INF welcomes and promotes research activities on the forest consistent with resource protection and other goals Potential Standards: 25% of all permit fees are retained at the local level as an incentive to raise funds for local projects Transparency of all permits with clear guidance Use of real time electronic communication for tracking permits Expedited permit process for fastest and most efficient service Place-based consideration for permits; different places may require different type of permit requirements (B) User Experience Desired Conditions: Permit activity locations identify easier-to-permit (i.e. cleared through environmental)

- Issue and supervise permits for new special use activities on the forest including powerlines, special events, large group gatherings, outfitter-guide activities and research.
 (PDF Pg. 148 Appendix B: Proposed and Possible Actions Sustainable Recreation)
- Expand partnerships with other federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as associations, non-government organizations, outfitters and guides, local businesses, and other community groups, to leverage information (help serve as messengers to the visiting public) and resources for mutual benefit to enhance and improve forest infrastructure (i.e. roads, trails, campgrounds)

 (PDF Pg. 151 Appendix C: Renewed

Partnership Focus – Creating a

Partnership Culture)

Management Approach:

Streamline Special use Permit (SUP) process for educational, youth, and nonprofit groups and to ensure quality of permittee

Streamline wilderness permit application process online and allow download of permit The INF uses the permit process to effectively educate visitors so that they safely and responsibly use the forest

Have a live person to help not just an online site to help inform and done correctly

Potential Standards:

Automated reminder/ alert system for permittees to ensure timely and complete application/ reporting (and to inform of personnel changes)

Consistent, clear, easy-to-find application process (online, in person)

Permits are issued for uses that are inclusive rather than restrictive

Maybe it is too easy to get a use permit and some shouldn't be able to get them – offer better education when getting use permits

(C) Stewardship Provisions

Desired Conditions:

SUP permitting process helps recreation users clearly understand their responsibility to use the forest responsibly

Management Approach:

Prioritize SUP's that address specific desired conditions and management goals as articulated in final management plan

When issuing permits for powerlines require burying lines where possible

<u>Potential Standards:</u>

Engage SUP holders who use trails to assist in trail maintenance through partnership with the INF

(D) Partnership Engagement

Desired Conditions:

Streamline and facilitate SUP with local businesses/ organizations/ individuals to encourage economic development in local communities

Management Approach: Give preference in use permits to local and non-profit organizations whose missions coincide with forest service mandates; consider developing a promotional approach to acknowledge local NGO's (i.e. CalTrans Adopt-a-Highway) Allow approved partnership groups a more streamlined process to obtain permits when
doing work for the forest; make it available online Potential Standards: INF has a diverse group of permittees providing "re-supply" support for hikers and forest users Increase the term of outfitter SUPs to allow sustainability for small local business

Emphasis Areas	Desired Conditions in Existing INF Plan by Emphasis Area	ESRC Citizen Suggested Plan Revisions by Emphasis Area and Subgroupings
Citizens Access/ Trails Subgroupings:	The diverse landscapes of the forest offer a variety of year-round recreation settings for a broad range of nature-	(A) New Trails Desired Conditions: An individual can hike, ride, ski, bike from Lee Vining to Lone Pine on trails without getting on a paved road
(A) New Trails (B) Trail Maintenance (C) Trail Accessibility (D) User Conflicts (E) Specific User Groups	based recreation opportunities, derived from assigned recreation opportunity spectrum classes and recreation places management areas. Management focuses on settings that enhance the forest recreation program niche. (PDF Pg. 42 – Sustainable Recreation – REC-FW-DC 01) Visitors can connect with nature, culture and history through a full range of inclusive and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities.	Management Approach: Agency willingly develops new trails to support community needs and recreational users as appropriate and ecologically viable Potential Standards: Development of new single track trails Trails are designed and maintained to landscape level standards (not agency boundaries) Apply minimization standards when assessing OSV trail locations (B) Trail Maintenance Desired Conditions: Trails, trailheads, and roads leading to trails are well maintained through active
	(PDF Pg. 43 – Sustainable Recreation – REC-FW-DC 04) ➤ Trail opportunities are available in a variety of settings that provide differing levels of challenge and types of experiences. (PDF Pg. 43 – Sustainable Recreation – REC-FW-DC 07) ➤ The trail system provides a variety of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities during summer and winter and distributed	partnerships with local governments and NGO's Management Approach: Maintenance needs and work is addressed in a timely manner based on use data and ecological needs INF has funding stream to maintain infrastructure and increase capacity Potential Standards: Trails should be located or relocated to provide access and avoid sensitive environmental areas Improve the trailhead infrastructure in heavy use areas to minimize impacts and user conflicts Allow partners to suggest improvement to enhance the forest experience and accept help from them to implement improvements

across the forest. Trails access destinations that provide for loop opportunities that also connect to a larger trail system, provide linkage from local communities to the forest and are compatible with other resources.

(PDG Pg. 43 – Sustainable Recreation – REC-FW-DC 15)

Work with partners and volunteers to provide recreation opportunities, maintain and enhance recreation settings, collect and manage data on recreation use and demand, and contribute to socioeconomic benefits associated with recreation and tourism. (PDF Pg. 94 –

Volunteers/Interpretation/Partnerships/ Stewardship – VIPS-FW-GOAL 04)

(C) Trail Accessibility

Desired Conditions:

The trail system of the INF links communities and is maintained using local and visitor volunteer resources

Management Approach:

Develop public transportation to reduce parking kerfuffles at trailheads and encourage loop hikes

Staging/ parking areas developed and maintained with regard to minimizing user conflict and resource impact as well as changing environmental conditions

Commit to preserving all current access motorized and not; expand where possible and not harmful; do not restrict routes absent approval by local government to ensure cultural values of local population; examine shrinking roadless areas

Provide balanced access to as many areas of the forest as possible

Take motorized access maps and overlay them on google earth and google maps; do the same for all trails motorized and non-motorized

Potential Standards:

The draft plan makes no mention of aging Americans (the largest segment of American population); new trails are necessary that this group can use; this can be trails that children and aging can enjoy; this is important for our next generation who will live even longer and must stay in shape

A network of accessible trails (not just paved) that allow more individuals with mobility constraints to access more of the forest and wilderness areas

Sustainable roads and trails of differing difficulty and communicate difficulty to users Trails are clearly signed to indicate permitted and non-permitted uses

Keep them accessible and open; too often they are deleted from maps and obliterated or disappear because of lack of maintenance and access; update inventory of roads/trails to show on map

Uniform trail signage across the forest matches electronic information (app & web)

(D) User Conflicts **Desired Conditions:** Trail etiquette taught/ shared/ agreed with basic guidelines developed for use, respect and tolerance between user groups Management Approach: As the population in the US and the planet increases there will be areas that will be crowded or over-used; the INF might think about limiting when and where people can go, have sign ups or reservations so the forest doesn't become a circus Potential Standards: Clearer identification of incompatible uses/users to benefit of all groups (E) Specific User Groups **Desired Conditions:** Active engagement of trail users to determine on-the-ground needs through technology and face-to-face visitor contact Trails user groups work collaboratively to support each other to enhance the trails experience Management Approach: Engaged local user groups that work in partnership with the agency to develop and maintain trails systems and access points Develop policy regulations for electric bikes with motors Flexibility in rule implementation allowing for new users **Potential Standards:** Balance and respect the needs of various users Manage motorized and non-motorized facilities as holistic systems fully integrated The INF needs a better understanding of OHV uses Access to training and education opportunities for volunteers and other interested parties i.e. Cerro Coso program

Recreation/ Iconic Places	ESRC Citizen Suggested Plan Revisions by Emphasis Area and Subgroupings	ESRC Citizen Suggested Plan Revisions by Emphasis Area and Subgroupings
Northern Gateway Communities	There are eleven (11) Recreation Places listed in Chapter 3 – Management Strategy as Recreation Places - that are relevant to the Northern Gateway Communities: 1. Benton-Casa Diablo Place – Pg. 62 2. Coyote Place – Pg. 74 3. Glass Mountain Place – Pg. 74 4. June Lake Loop-Walker/Parker Place – Pg. 76 5. Mammoth Place – Pg. 77 6. Mammoth Escarpment Place – Pg. 77 7. Mono Basin-Lee Vining Place – Pg. 79 8. Owens River Headwaters Place – Pg. 80 9. Pizona Place – Pg. 81 10. Reds Meadow-Fish Creek Place – Pg. 81 11. Upper Owens River Place – Pg. 82 Existing Plan Desired Conditions: Developed recreation facilities are rustic in design with less obvious management controls (1) Access is provided that allows for sustainable use along the network of motorized trails (2) Sustained as a natural-appearing remote, backcountry, non-wilderness area with management emphasis on year-round dispersed recreation opportunities. (1,2,3) Management emphasis includes providing dispersed motorized recreation opportunity experiences that support ROS of the place (2,3) Sustained as a natural-appearing, destination landscape with management emphasis on developed recreation opportunities (4) Developed recreation facilities are sustained to support the needs	Suggested Plan Revisions for 11 Recreation Places in the Northern Gateway Areas Developed recreational facilities specifically for recreational drone flying to move this out of the general forest (1,4,5,7) Mammoth place (5) – historical resource maintenance, preservation, and interpretation to showcase running history and consolidated Mine Site near Coldwater Rock Creek Canyon should be on the list for special management and may be most like Reds Meadow in terms of how one might consider managing the area Add Hot Creek as a place sustained as a natural appearing landscape with a mix of interpretation and dispersed recreation opportunity Special places not listed: Lee Vining Canyon, riparian corridors – all of them i.e. Lundy Canyon, Parker Lake Drainage, Virginia Creek Drainage, Bohler Canyon, Little Walker, Horse Meadows; keep them remote, quiet, and wilderness (5) Wilderness natural appearing and remote experience in Coyote Place, Glass Mtn Place, San Joaquin Ridge Place, edges of wilderness areas, MBNFSA, Owens River Headwaters Place, Pizona Place, Reds Meadow, Fish Creek Place – to protect wildlife and to have quiet places for hikers Increased natural study areas to include less studied areas e.g. Glass, Excelsior, Boehler Canyon, good opportunities for Citizen Science McGee Creek area should be on the list and managed most like elements for #8 and #9 (based on comments contained in the handout) (4) It seems like June Lake should be managed similarly to Mammoth with both developed and dispersed recreation opportunities for residents and visitors

of changing demographics (4)

Access is provided by a network of non-motorized trails and roads to launch from for dispersed recreation opportunities (5)

Mammoth Lakes Basin is sustained for family oriented developed recreation as well as technical sports including rock climbing and backcountry skiing (5)

Sustained as a natural-appearing, cultural and tourism destination landscape providing the staging area for year-round developed and dispersed recreation opportunities for residents and visitors (5,6) Developed recreation facilities are contemporary in design with vehicular controls and regimentation of users (5,6)

Trail system is aligned with the ROS and management actions focus on developed and dispersed recreation opportunities (5,6,11)

Area is managed to maintain high scenic integrity for visitors and residents to enjoy (6)

Opportunities for research are sustained, with an emphasis on those that support developing adaptive management responses within the place (6,7)

Trail system is aligned with the ROS and management actions focus on supporting the dramatic view sheds (7)

Sustained as a natural-appearing, destination landscape with management emphasis on continuing to provide visitors with sense of wildness and remote experience (7)

Locations of cultural and tribal value are enhanced via management actions to sustain landscape resiliency (7,8,9) Sustained as a remote, backcountry wilderness area with a management emphasis on providing visitors a sense and experience of solitude, wildness and remoteness (8)

Trail system is aligned with the ROS and management actions focus on sustaining the wildness character (8)

Sustained as a backcountry area with management emphasis on continuing to provide visitors with a sense of remoteness (9)

(#2 and #3 on page 1) Mammoth (5 and 6) vs June (4) – difference in those statements for those areas doesn't make sense Sherwins – develop mountain bike trails to allow exploitation of lakes and ranges in in Sherwins vs limited to hiking only Horseshoe Lake – designate as official dog park Better define recreation place – consider finer details and specific management for high use/ high visitation/ specialized use areas within larger places; hard to know what these places truly contain without accompanying map

Through staff and volunteer training make sure that sensitive areas or locations are not publicly promoted for visitation in website postings, social media, or interpretive interaction with the public June Lake Loop Place (#4) needs to include trails — an important component of the INF landscape here

Mammoth Lakes Basin (#6) needs more specific management area designation to address high impact visitor experience (#8) redraw OSV boundaries to allow for easier experience over snow access between Mammoth and just west of the 395 Boehler Canyon (#9) – sustained a s a natural study area Monitor visitor use in both high use recreation focus areas (i.e. south Tufa) and sensitive habitats to determine impacts and carrying capacity

- (#3) Glass Mountains should be considered for Wilderness Designation
- (#1) Opportunities for historic interpretation could be increased
- (#4) Preserve the wonderful and historical contributions of 80+ year cabin program; value the participation permittees make to preserve and protect the forest; value the economic impact on the community
- (#8) Redraw the lines for headwater to exclude "slush pits" that are pumice pits/ trash pits/ landfill from ski area construction; was highest elevation open safe area allowing riding any year regardless of snow levels
- (#12) Tioga Pass every other road end e.g. Lundy, Virginia, ML Basin maintain open facilities to provide continued access in

Sustained as a natural-appearing landscape with pockets of highquality concentrated recreation and backcountry access (10) Road system supports delivery and staging to high use trailheads (10)

Sustained as a natural-appearing cultural landscape with dispersed summer and winter recreation and management emphasis balanced between dispersed and developed recreation opportunities (11)

Scenic character is sustained by resilient landscapes that support and enhance the scenery setting. (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11)

Management actions are aligned with recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) and the roles, contributions and sense of the place (1,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11)

Utilities are considered if their location will not limit the achievement of the roles, contributions and sense of place (1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10,11)

Areas of high-use are managed to maintain a quality experience for visitors. (1,4,5,6,10,11)

Areas of dispersed use are managed to maintain the ROS (6,7,8,10,11)

Private inholdings are considered for land exchanges if they promote the roles, contributions and sense of the place (2,6,10,11) Development is aligned with ROS and scenery management system; managed and adapted to changing demographics, connectivity to adjacent communities and supporting the connection of people to nature (3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11) Recreation residences do not limit the ROS and do not generate resource impacts (5,6,10,11)

Recreation residence permits are considered for discontinuation if such actions would promote the roles, contributions and sense of the place (4,5,6,10,11)

Special use permits are authorized that align with the ROS and

shoulder seasons

(#4) utilized existing business that are underutilized Develop inventory of wilderness access opportunities from gateway communities to wilderness experiences efficiently provide appropriate permitting guidance capacity support

Trash in all places, determine sewage issues from over use; we don't have resources for pick up so it accumulates

(#5) Consider mandatory shuttle only to access the Lakes Basin during peak user times (i.e. holidays)

Recognition of watershed/ headwaters status emphasizing low impact recreation opportunities and areas importance to urban areas water connection (#'s 6,7,8,10,11)

Trail system is aligned with the ROS and management actions focus on supporting dramatic watersheds include in #'s 3,11

Sustained backcountry area – in #3, 11

Mammoth Lakes Basin should be its own iconic place – different desired conditions than escarpment

(# 4,5,10) Wilderness gateway – these areas are the entrance for long distance trails and one of the largest unroaded areas in the lower 48 yet are easily accessed by care; they require more management controls

Mammoth triangle – open all restrictions for over snow usage in the Mammoth Triangle - from 395 to San Joaquin Ridge – allows for higher elevation riding during low snow years

Lee Vining Canyon – develop/ promote more alternative winter recreation of x-country skiing and ice climbing

The INF must make new trails a priority to keep all Americans in better shape – trails are an economic necessity to Mono County (#4) the 82 Recreation Resident Permittees of the June Lake Loop want to see the following line removed: "Recreation Resident Permittees are considered for discontinuation if such actions would promote the roles, contributions, and sense of place" (#4) needs to be protected as a place of importance in the early days of the eastern Sierra; as such is not changed nor should it; the permit holders who helped develop it continue to be good

	achieving desired conditions of the place (4,5,6,7,10,11) Filming opportunities are authorized that encourage responsible use and stewardship of the land (5,6,7,10,11) Outfitter and guide services promote the roles, contributions and sense of the place and support meeting the needs of the ROS with the agency and partners (6,7,8,9,10,11)	stewards of the landscape while the private land owners are necessary to the uniqueness of the small jewel NOTE: Numbers used in public comments align with numbers assigned to Recreation Places listed at the beginning of each section.
Central Gateway Communities	There are three (3) Recreation Places listed in Chapter 3 – Management Strategy as Recreation Places - that are relevant to the Central Gateway Communities: 1. Benton-Casa Diablo Place – Pg. 72 2. Bishop to Convict Creek Place – Pg. 73 3. White Mountains Place – Pg. 83 Existing Plan Desired Conditions: Sustained as a dispersed use type of place; natural-appearing remote, backcountry, non-wilderness area with management emphasis on year-round dispersed recreation opportunities. (1) Developed recreation facilities are rustic in design with less obvious management controls (1) Areas of high-use are managed to maintain a quality experience for visitors. (1) Developed recreation facilities included campgrounds, trailheads, day use sites, group camps, recreation residences and cross- country ski trails. (2) Developed sites and transportation are managed and adapted to	Suggested Plan Revisions for 3 Recreation Places in the Central Gateway Areas (#2) Develop a fixed anchor policy for rock climbing in wilderness (#3) Motorized recreation continues to be an important component of the visitor experience We will be better off if we keep congress and the President out of our local planning (#2) There are areas that should be sustained as a remote area to provide visitors with a wild experience (Little Lakes valley, Granite Park, Tamarack Beach, Hilton above South Lake) (# 1,2,3) Management of the forest's remaining roadless areas maintain their wild undeveloped character Bishop to Convict Creek Place – it is important to not expand wilderness to sustain the road system that supports existing wilderness (#1) Casa Diablo Volcanic Area – evolving; radio repeater sites,
	changing demographics, connectivity to adjacent communities and supporting the connection of people to nature. (2) Rock climbing and other dispersed recreation activity is managed to support the ROS of the place. (2) A network of non-motorized trails support access to the high elevation vistas. (2)	power transmission lines need to be protected from "wilderness" designation Include Lower Rock Creek Canyon in list of special places Coyote Flats – the same way you don't give away your favorite fishing spot or deer hunting spot or it will become crowded and

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	The road system supports delivery and staging to non-motorized trailheads used for overnight use. (2) Private inholdings are considered for land exchanges if they promote the roles, contributions and sense of the place. (2) Sustained as a naturally-evolving, natural-appearing landscape. (2) Sustained as a remote, backcountry area with a management emphasis on continuing to provide visitors with a wildness and remoteness experience. (3) Developed sites and infrastructure are rustic in nature and support the visitor experience (3) Recreation opportunities, including motorized use, hiking and hunting are also sustained (3) Access and overnight accommodation support recreation opportunities in the high elevation country near the south end of the place (3) Opportunities for research are sustained. (3) Scenic character is sustained by resilient landscapes that support and enhance the scenery setting. (1,2,3) Utilities are considered if their location will not limit the achievement of the roles, contributions and sense of place. (1,2,3) Management actions are aligned with recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) and the roles, contributions and sense of the place. (1,2,3)	over-used; let people explore and discover without direction Minimize the areas impacted by motorized sports (#2) Bishop to Convict – wilderness boundary next to major highway and airport – inappropriate (#2) Sustain the remote backcountry areas with a management emphasis on continuing to provide visitors as wild and remote an experience as possible It is important to keep the Benton-Casa-Diablo place non wilderness (#1,2,3) Development of new recreation facilities is sited so as to protect sensitive, cultural and other fragile areas (#2) Wheeler Ridge – old roads to Pine Creek Mine and Lower Rock Creek trail Harkless Flats, Papoose, Saline, McMurphy Meadows, Coyote, Buttermilk, Warren Bench White Mountains Place – wilderness areas should not be expanded in order to preserve motorized road and trail systems; wild and scenic designation for Cottonwood Creek seems unnecessary in wilderness and should not be repeated NOTE: Numbers used in public comments align with numbers assigned to Recreation Places listed at the beginning of each section.
Southern Gateway Communities	There are three (3) Recreation Places listed in Chapter 3 – Management Strategy as Recreation Places - that are relevant to the Southern Gateway Communities: 1. Golden Trout-South Sierra Place – Pg. 75 2. Inyo Mountains Place – Pg. 75 3. Owens Valley Escarpment Place – Pg. 80	Suggested Plan Revisions for 3 Recreation Places in the Southern Gateway Areas Onion Valley has no day use area; if you want to get up out of heat you sit at parking area if you don't hike (#1,2,3) The INF has a program of citizen monitors to track

Existing Plan Desired Conditions:

Sustained as a remote, backcountry area. (1)

Scenic character is sustained by resilient landscapes that support and enhance the scenery setting. (1,2)

Trail system is aligned with the ROS and management emphasis is on dispersed recreation to provide visitors with a sense and experience of wildness and remoteness. (1,2)

Access is provided for motorized users along designated routes. (1,2)

Sustained as a remote, backcountry area with a management emphasis on continuing to provide visitors with a wildness and remoteness experience. (2)

Sustained as a natural-appearing landscape with pockets of highquality concentrated

Outfitter and guide services promote the roles, contributions and sense of the place, and support meeting the needs of the ROS with the agency and partners. (2,3)

Filming opportunities are authorized that encourage responsible use and stewardship of public lands. (2,3)

Recreation with a management emphasis on dispersed recreation experiences. (3)

Scenic character is sustained by resilient landscapes that support and enhance the scenery setting and wilderness characteristics of the place. (3)

Development in the place is aligned with the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) and managed and adapted to changing demographics, connectivity to adjacent communities and supporting the connection of people to nature. (3)

Areas of dispersed use are managed to maintain the ROS. (3) Special use permits are authorized that align with the ROS and achieving the desired conditions of the place. (3)

Trail system is aligned with the ROS and management actions focus on maintaining the remoteness of the place. (3)

The road system supports delivery and staging to non-motorized trailheads used for wilderness day overnight use. (3)

resource conditions, use, trash, etc.

(#3) Horseshoe Meadow campground neglected; needs better monitoring and management

Need special place – Onion Valley – needs special attention to manage the numbers of people in the summer; could also provide for a place similar to the Whitney Portal site – partnership with a private interest

New places - Sage Flat, Cottonwood Lakes, historic trails SMT

Provide optional shuttle service for Whitney Portal similar to shuttle service to Reds Meadow

(#1,2,3) The INF recreation program provides diverse recreational opportunities while also safeguarding sensitive areas, key watersheds, and remaining roadless areas

New - Mt. Whitney and all 12,000' foot peaks

Dry camping area in upper Mazourka with table, toilets, etc. Improve trailhead parking with security cams and expanded for overflow

Coordinate with BLM and county on road maintenance

Need more dark sky areas for group camping; Re- open Cedar Flats "Carma" footprint for group camping with priority for astronomy groups; isolated old sites could also be used for RV if slabs are left in place

NOTE: Numbers used in public comments align with numbers assigned to Recreation Places listed at the beginning of each section.

Utilities are considered if their location will not limit the achievement of the roles, contributions and sense of place. (1,2,3) Management actions are aligned with the ROS and the roles, contributions and sense of the place. (1,2,3)	