

The Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative Summer 2016 – Kick Off Meeting



June 27, 2016

Welcome !





“Kick Off Meeting”



Oct 14, 2014 - Bishop - Cerro Coso Community College

**WHAT RECREATION VALUES, PRINCIPLES, OR GUIDELINES DO WE WANT TO SEE INCLUDED IN THE
INYO NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION?**

STEWARDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP	DIVERSE USE AND EXPERIENCES	RESOURCE PROTECTION	COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE	HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE	ACCESS FOR ALL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture Of Partnership and Citizen Stewardship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintain Positive Passion of Users <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Stewardship of the Forest (and Vice Versa) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facilitate Opportunities for Stewardship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated Role for Communities and Groups <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Limited by Agency (USFS) Lack of Resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instill a Land Ethic to Engender Ownership and Responsibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allowance for Broad Recreation Users & Types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide for a Diversity of Experiences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Respecting Others' Values & Differences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide for Primitive Recreation Opportunities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balanced, Sustainable Opportunities for High Quality Recreation Experiences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solitude	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Better Management of Wilderness and Front Country Alike <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protection of rare and Sensitive Plant and Animal Species & Habitat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manage the Forest to Avoid Catastrophic Wildfire <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Common Sense Site Specific Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limit Night Lighting – Forests Should Be Dark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education on the Trail and Clear Signage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adequate Signage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maps Based on Type of Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Welcoming, Functioning, Well-Maintained Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caring, Ample, Professional USFS Staff That Fosters Problem Solving Through Creativity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy & Contiguous Habitat for Wildlife Dispersal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Negative Impact to Environment or Resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintain and Preserve Health of Land, Plants, & Animals Through Sustainable Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balance Recreation with Preservation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solitude	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diverse, Accessible, Welcoming Language & Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "This Land Is Our Land" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> More Kids in the Forest

“Gateway Communities Meetings”



Oct 28 2014 – Big Pine – Big Pine Town Hall

Oct 30 2014 – June Lake – June Lake Community Center



“Drafting a Recreation Strategy”



Nov 12, 2014 - Bishop - Cerro Coso Community College



“Finalizing a Recreation Strategy”



Jan 14, 2015 - Bishop - Cerro Coso Community College

“ESRC Proposed Recreation Strategy”



Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative Proposed Recreation Strategy

Prepared in Support of the
Inyo National Forest Management Plan Revision

January 26, 2015

<http://eastsierrarec.org>

<http://mltpa.org/advocacy/esrc-public-meeting-information>





**Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative
Proposed Recreation Strategy**

Prepared in Support of the
Inyo National Forest Management Plan Revision

January 26, 2015

<http://eastsierrarec.org>

<http://mltpa.org/advocacy/esrc-public-meeting-information>



**52 Desired Conditions
Spread over the 6 ESRC
“Values, Principles and
Guidelines” that make up
the ESRC “Recreation Lens”**

ESRC Value = Stewardship and Partnership

Desired Conditions	Objectives	Standards	Guidelines
1. Community Steward Programs	Establish community financed interpretive programs to educate public about ecology, history, LNT, culture of an area	Assign appropriate staff person to facilitate agreements with INF to provide volunteers	Interpretive staff either paid or provided by volunteers
2. Forest Service collaboration with community groups	-INF will actively collaborate with community groups to address management and recreation goals -INF should also collaborate with tribal leadership as to management and location of sacred land and burial sites	Partnerships should include a broad variety of groups to represent the diversity of uses and interests on the forest	The INF and community groups will have established partnership structures to facilitate communication
3. Repair trails and bridges with community stewardship as appropriate	Engage more partners for front country & backcountry trail repair and maintenance by doubling MOU's in the next 5 years	Create outreach program to engage partners – clearly communicate project guidelines	Identify and publish/ promote projects that could be implemented by partners
4. Stewardship opportunities for visitors and residents	-Expand on the ground stewardship capacity through establishment of local stewardship groups in each “gateway community” -Provide 20 stewardship projects for out of town groups per year	Ensure projects occur in each community and addresses more than one “use”	-Streamline and prioritize facilitation of local and regional groups stewardship project requests -Where possible provide free or low cost facilities for stewardship groups (e.g. campground)
5. Improve partnerships and their ability to work on forest	INF hires or designates a coordinator specifically to work with partnership groups	INF being proactive in seeking out partnership objectives	Develop with partners a volunteer stewardship corps



Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative Proposed Recreation Strategy

Prepared in Support of the
Inyo National Forest Management Plan Revision

January 26, 2015

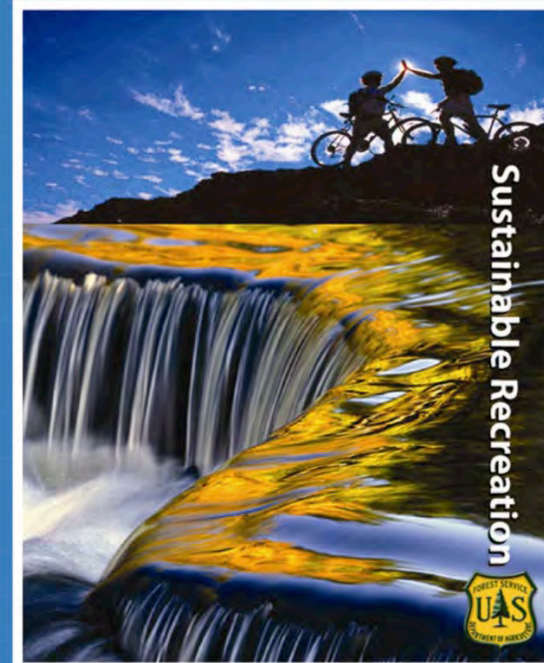
<http://eastsierrarec.org>

<http://mltpa.org/advocacy/esrc-public-meeting-information>



Connecting People with America's Great Outdoors:

A Framework for Sustainable Recreation



United States Forest Service, USDA
Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources

June 25, 2010

**WHAT RECREATION VALUES, PRINCIPLES, OR GUIDELINES DO WE WANT TO SEE INCLUDED IN THE
INYO NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION?**

STEWARDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP	DIVERSE USE AND EXPERIENCES	RESOURCE PROTECTION	COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE	HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE	ACCESS FOR ALL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture Of Partnership and Citizen Stewardship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintain Positive Passion of Users <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Stewardship of the Forest (and Vice Versa) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facilitate Opportunities for Stewardship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated Role for Communities and Groups <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Limited by Agency (USFS) Lack of Resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instill a Land Ethic to Engender Ownership and Responsibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allowance for Broad Recreation Users & Types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide for a Diversity of Experiences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Respecting Others' Values & Differences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide for Primitive Recreation Opportunities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balanced, Sustainable Opportunities for High Quality Recreation Experiences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solitude	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Better Management of Wilderness and Front Country Alike <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protection of rare and Sensitive Plant and Animal Species & Habitat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manage the Forest to Avoid Catastrophic Wildfire <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Common Sense Site Specific Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limit Night Lighting – Forests Should Be Dark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education on the Trail and Clear Signage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adequate Signage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maps Based on Type of Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Welcoming, Functioning, Well-Maintained Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caring, Ample, Professional USFS Staff That Fosters Problem Solving Through Creativity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy & Contiguous Habitat for Wildlife Dispersal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Negative Impact to Environment or Resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintain and Preserve Health of Land, Plants, & Animals Through Sustainable Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balance Recreation with Preservation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solitude	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diverse, Accessible, Welcoming Language & Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "This Land Is Our Land" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> More Kids in the Forest



Voices for Eastern Sierra

Recreation



Voices for Eastern Sierra

Recreation

Who's here tonight?



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Plan Revision Inyo National Forest



Pacific Southwest Region

June 2016

Forest Plan Revision ~ Background



We are revising the current forest plan because:

- The existing plan is more than 20 years old.
- Social, economic and environmental conditions have changed.
- New regulations and policies are in place.
- New information is available.

Science-based assessments, public input, and requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule identified areas needing changes

- Wildfire planning and management
- Restoration of ecosystems
- Sustainable recreation
- Benefits to local communities
- Tribal relations and uses
- Language and categorization of plan components



Forest Plan Revision ~ Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Explains proposed plan revisions
 - Presents spectrum of management alternatives
 - Analyzes environmental, social and economic effects
- 1 EIS = 3 Records of Decisions and 3 unique forest plans
- Natural resource topics for forest plan revisions
 - Fire Management
 - Ecological Integrity
 - Sustainable Recreation and designated areas



Forest Plan Revision ~ Draft EIS Chapters



- Summary
- Volume 1: Draft EIS
 - Chapter 1: Purpose and Need and Issues
 - Chapter 2: The Alternatives and Quick Comparison
 - Chapter 3: Affected Environment and Consequences
- Chapter 4: Preparers, Consultation, Coordination
- Glossary, References, Index



Forest Plan Revision ~ Draft EIS Chapter 2



Alternatives and Comparison Tables

- How we developed the alternatives
- Features in common across alternatives
- Details of the main elements of each alternative
 - Focus on the major things that differ and that respond to the issues
 - Organized by the 3 revision topics
- Other alternatives we considered
- Comparison tables



Forest Plan Revision ~ Draft EIS Chapter 3



Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

- Organized into 6 major sections
 - Agents of Change provides context
 - Revision Topic 1: Fire Management (fire and air)
 - Revision Topic 2: Ecological Integrity (terrestrial, aquatic, wildlife, fish and plants)
 - Revision Topic 3: Sustainable Recreation and Designated Areas (recreation, heritage, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail)
 - Tribal Relations and Uses
 - Benefits to People (forest products, economic, social)



Forest Plan Revision ~ Draft EIS Analysis



Each Chapter 3 section is organized similarly

- Background
- Analysis and Methods
- Affected Environment
- Environmental Consequences
 - Common consequences
 - By alternative or by consequence
 - Cumulative Effects
- Analytical Conclusion



Forest Plan Revision ~ Draft EIS Appendix



Volume 2: Appendices

- Appendix A: Timber Suitability
- Appendix B: Wilderness Evaluation
- Appendix C: Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation

Volume 3: Maps



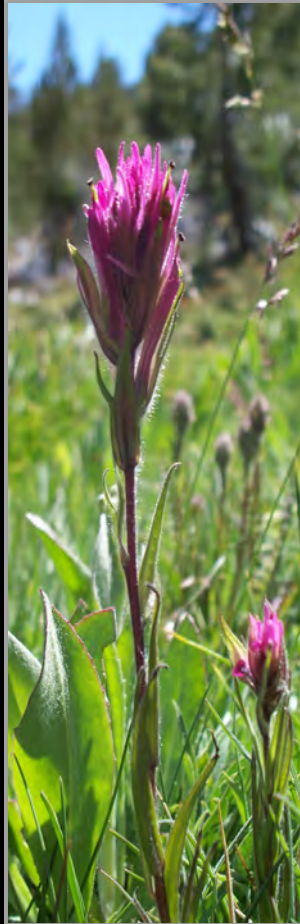
Forest Plan Revision ~ Four Draft EIS Alternatives



Alternative A No Action	Alternative B Preferred Alternative	Alternative C	Alternative D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues direction of current forest plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase pace and scale of ecological restoration using mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, and managing some wildfires; More watershed restoration; Better integrate recreation in planning; Recommended wilderness on Inyo NF only; Creates new corridor for PCT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis on limiting wildlife impacts; More use of prescribed fire and managing some wildfires; More watershed restoration; Recommended wilderness on all Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra NFs; Wider PCT corridor in some areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greatest increase in pace and scale of all restoration; No recommended wilderness; Narrower PCT corridor



Forest Plan Revision ~ What is in the draft forest plan?



- Chapter 1. Introduction
- Chapter 2. Vision
 - Desired Conditions
- Chapter 3. Management Strategy
 - Management Areas
 - Designated Areas
 - Plan Objectives
 - Goals
 - Potential Management Approaches
- Chapter 4. Design Criteria
 - Standards
 - Guidelines
- Chapter 5. Plan Monitoring Program
- Appendices
 - Maps
 - Proposed and possible actions
 - Strategies for working with partners
 - Strategies for resolving recreation conflicts
 - Forest-wide range standards
 - Timber suitability and management
- Glossary



Forest Plan Revision ~ What's Different in the Revised Plan?

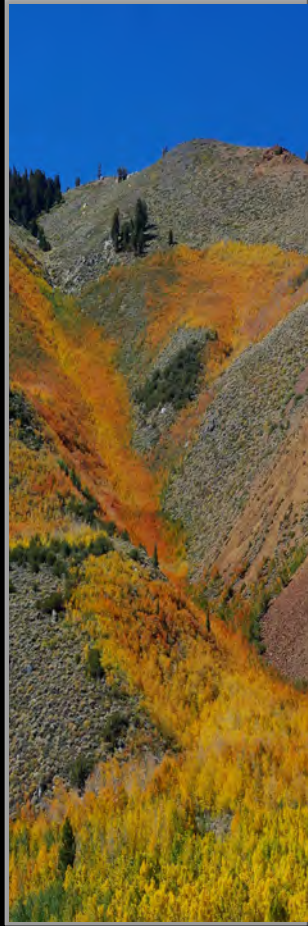


- Fire Management Zones
 - Community Wildfire Protection
 - General Wildfire Protection
 - Wildfire Restoration
 - Wildfire Maintenance

- Plan components allow for increase in:
 - Mechanical treatments
 - Prescribed burning
 - Use of wildfires managed to meet resource objectives



Forest Plan Revision ~ What's Different in the Revised Plan?



- Ecological Integrity
 - Terrestrial and riparian vegetation
 - Bi-State sage-grouse

- Plan Components allow for increase in:
 - Restoration of meadow and riparian systems
 - Restoration of sage-grouse habitat



Forest Plan Revision ~ What's Different in the Revised Plan?



- Sustainable Recreation and Designated Areas
 - Partnerships
 - Tribal Relations and Uses
 - Cultural Resources
 - Recommended wilderness areas

- Plan Components:
 - Provide framework for working with partners
 - Fostering relationships and using traditional ecological knowledge in project development



Forest Plan Revision ~ What's the Same in the Revised Plan?



- No changes to management of:
 - Geology and Minerals
 - Energy
 - Infrastructure
 - Lands
 - Grazing

- Plan Components:
 - Allow for these uses to continue
 - Language updated to reflect Planning Rule plan component definitions



Forest Plan Revision ~ Closing



The draft EIS and draft forest plans will be open to a public comment period for 90 days. Please submit comments using one of the following methods:

- Project web-site comment form: <http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters>
- Postal mail: Planning Team Leader, Forest Plan Revision, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592.
- E-mail: r5planrevision@fs.fed.us

For more information visit our project web-site or ask one of us for help!

<http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters>



Comments Due August 25!



**Have you had a chance to
review the
Draft Management Plan?**

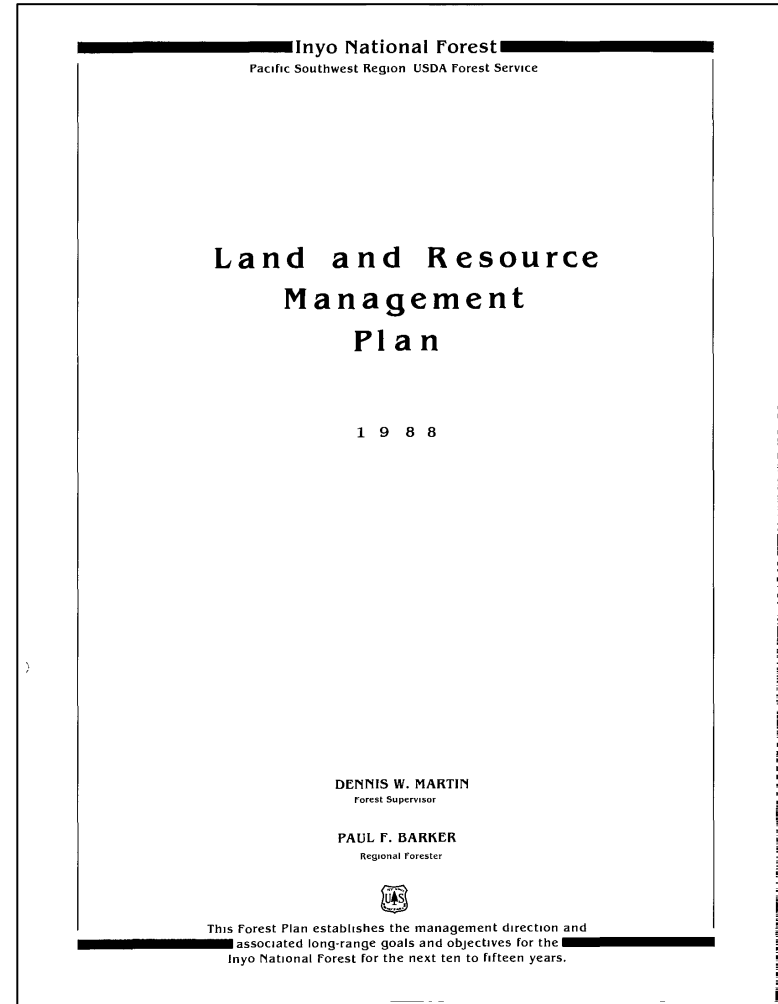
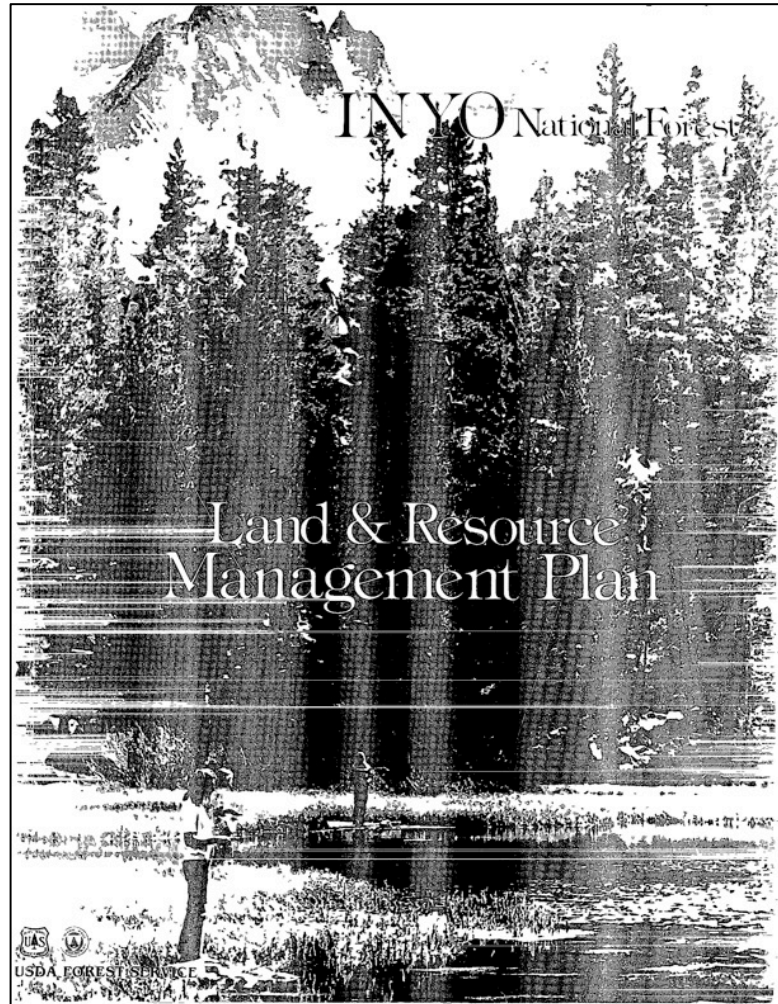


**Have you had a chance to
review the
Draft Management Plan?
Who's going to Comment?**

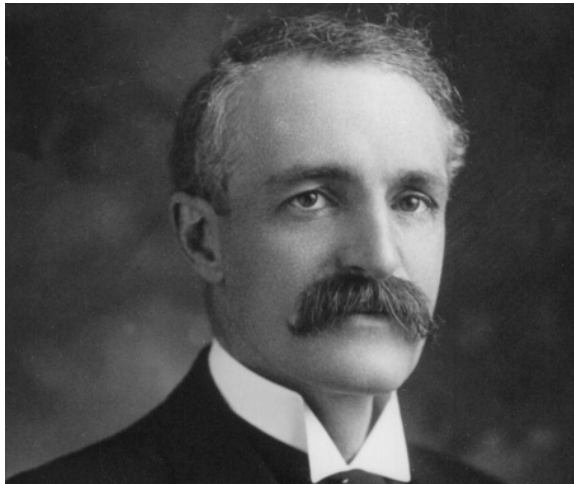


Sustainable Recreation

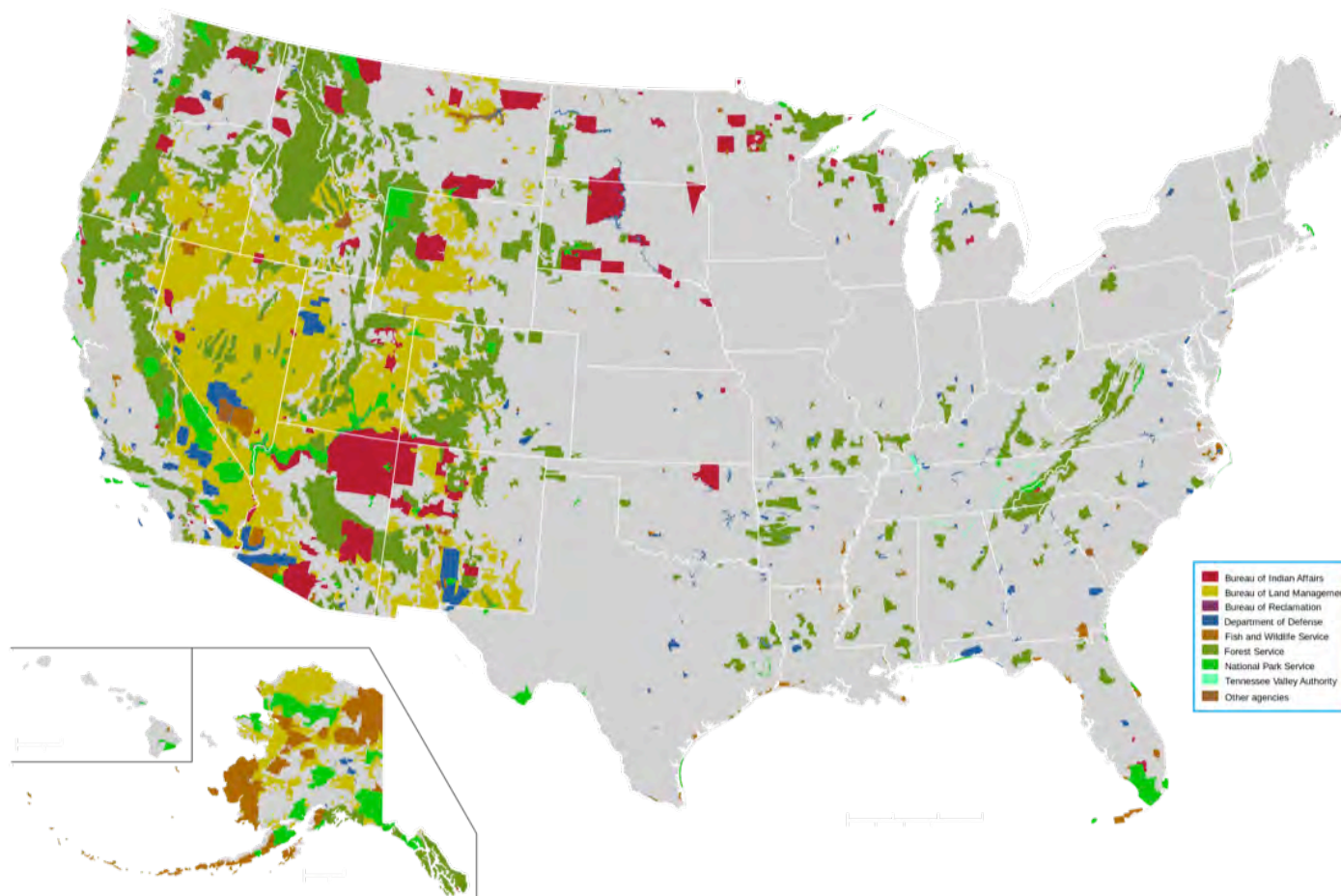
Management Plan



“Eight national forests have been selected to be ‘Early Adopters’ and the first to revise their land management plans using the 2012 planning rule... California’s Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests...”



Conservation Movement



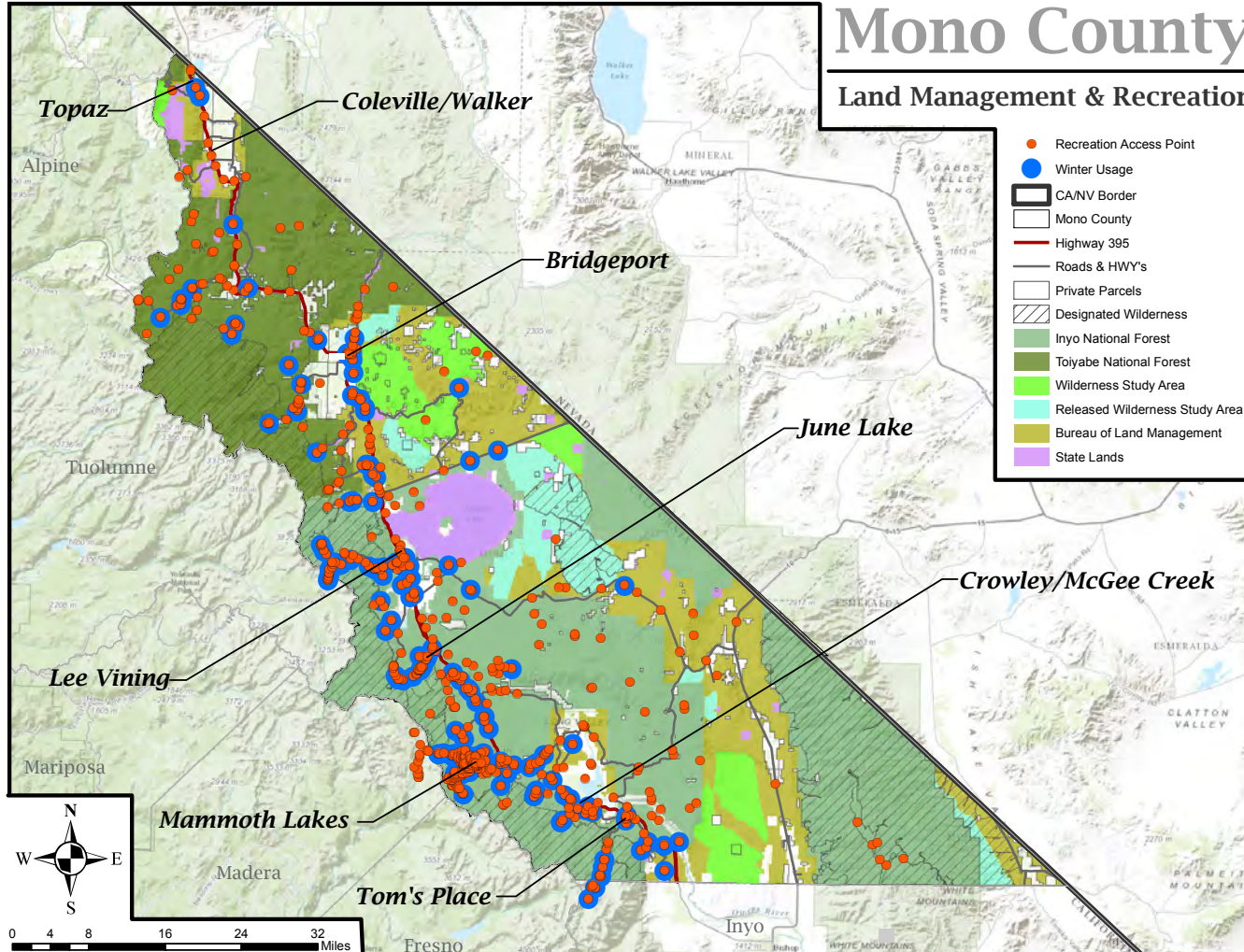






Mono County

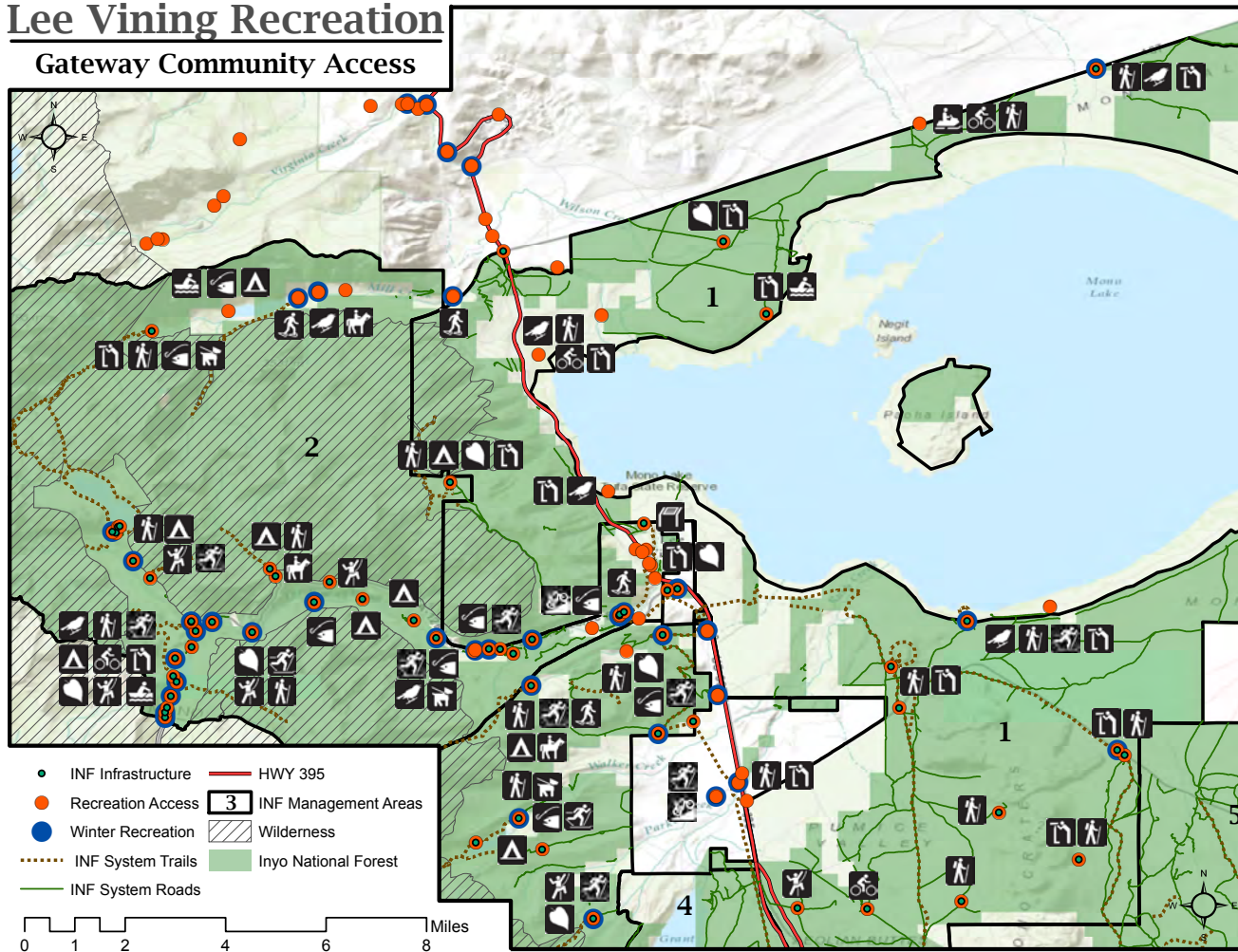
Land Management & Recreation



Source: Bureau of Land Management GIS, Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest, MLTPA, Esri Basemaps, UCLA Mapshare

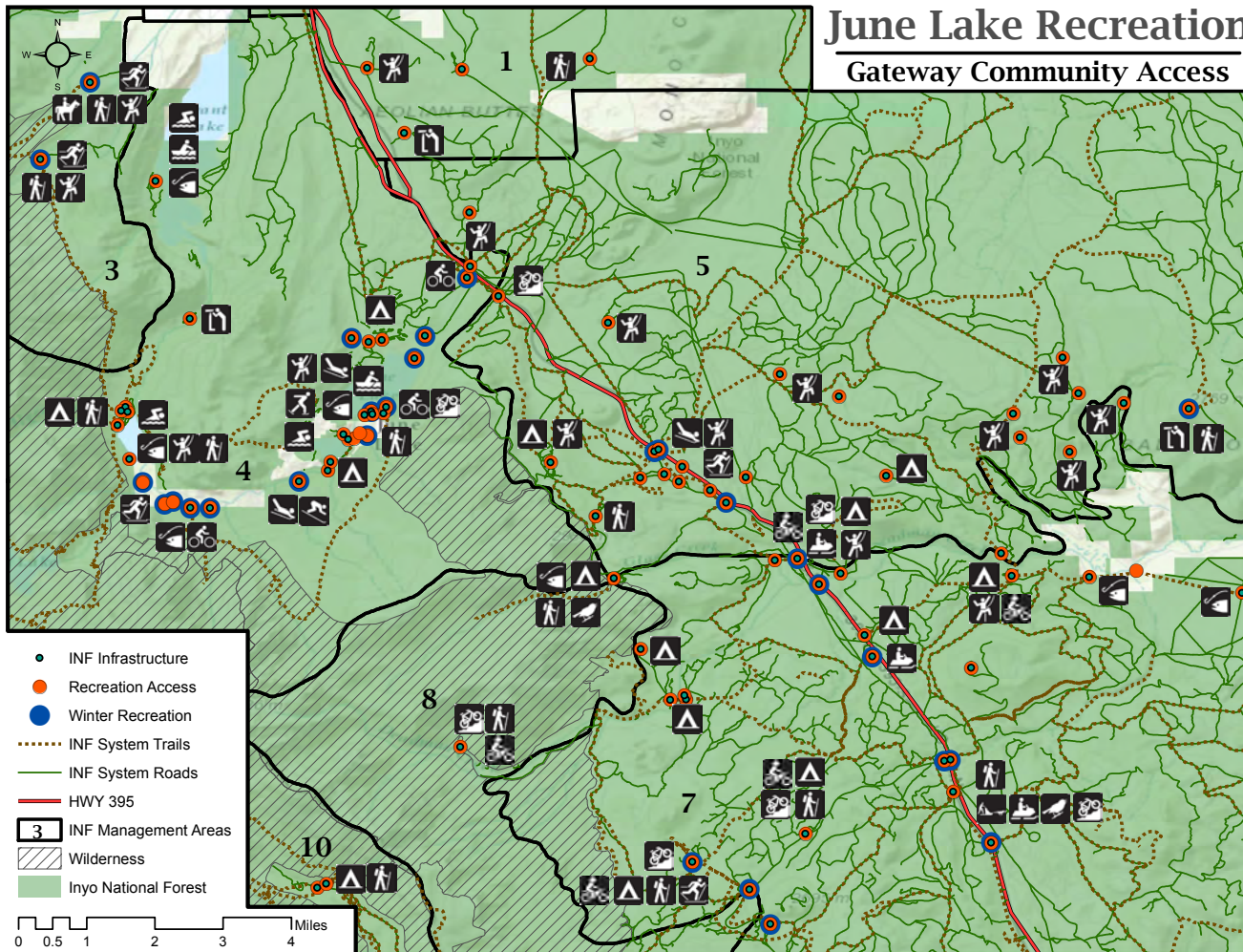
Lee Vining Recreation

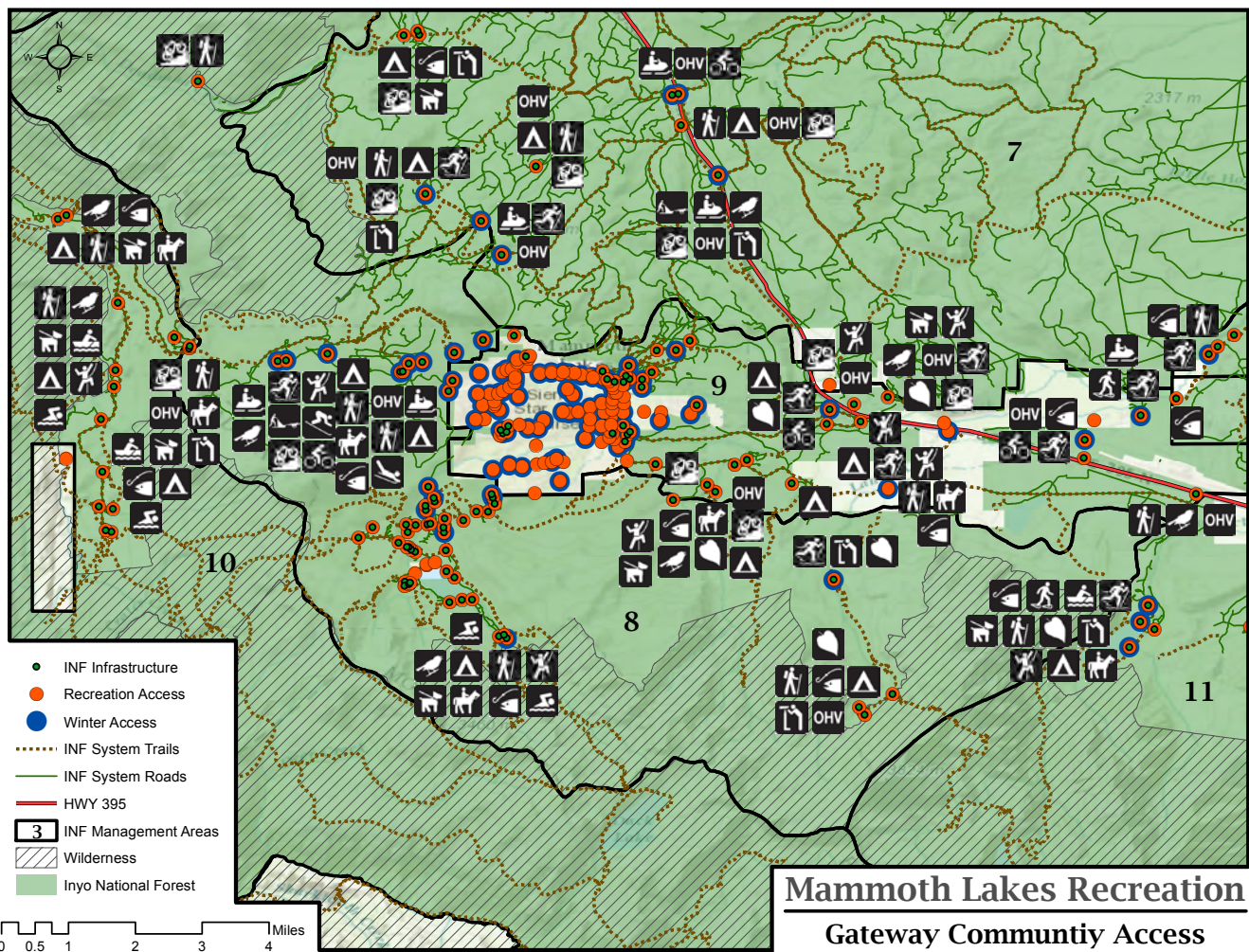
Gateway Community Access



June Lake Recreation

Gateway Community Access

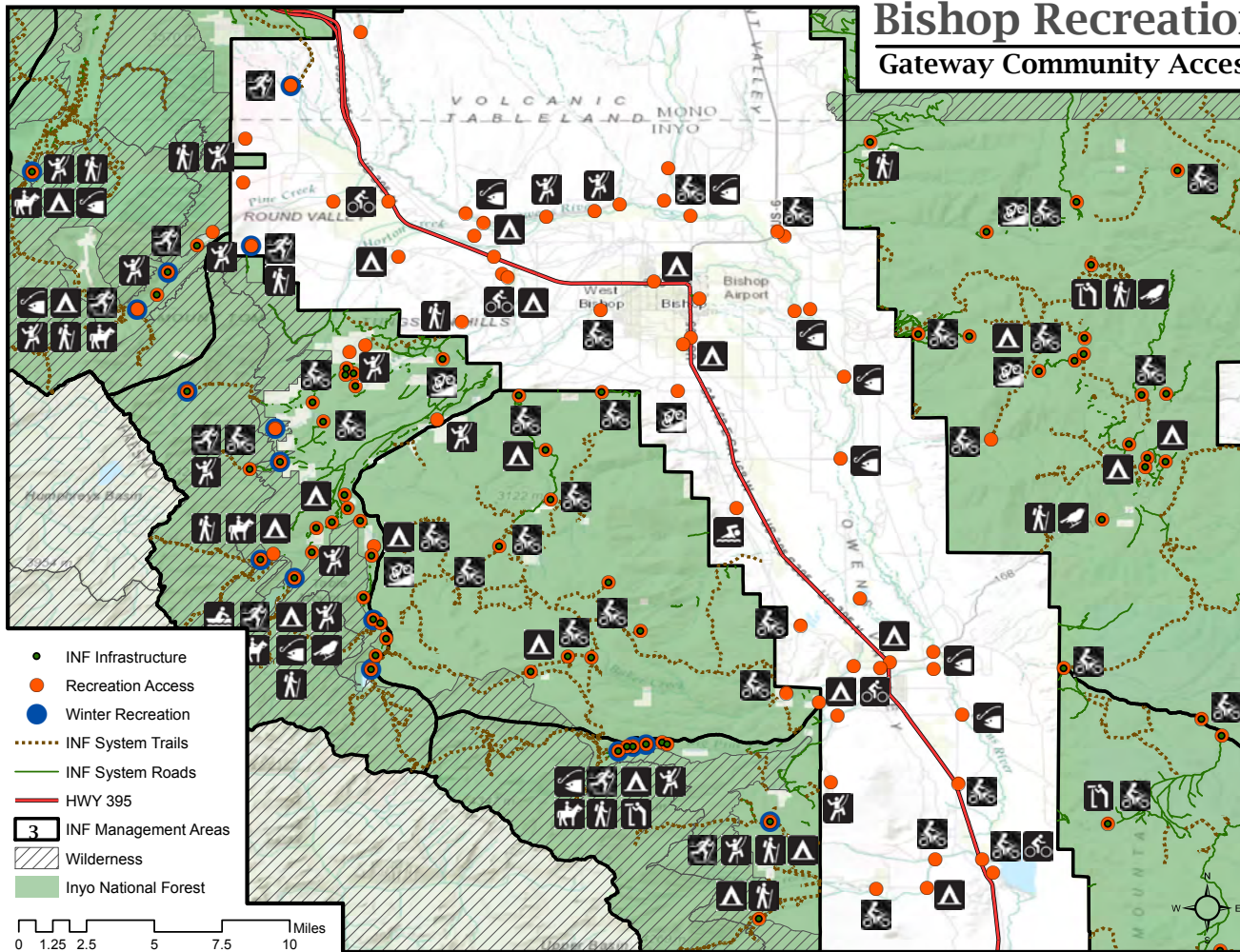




Mammoth Lakes Recreation

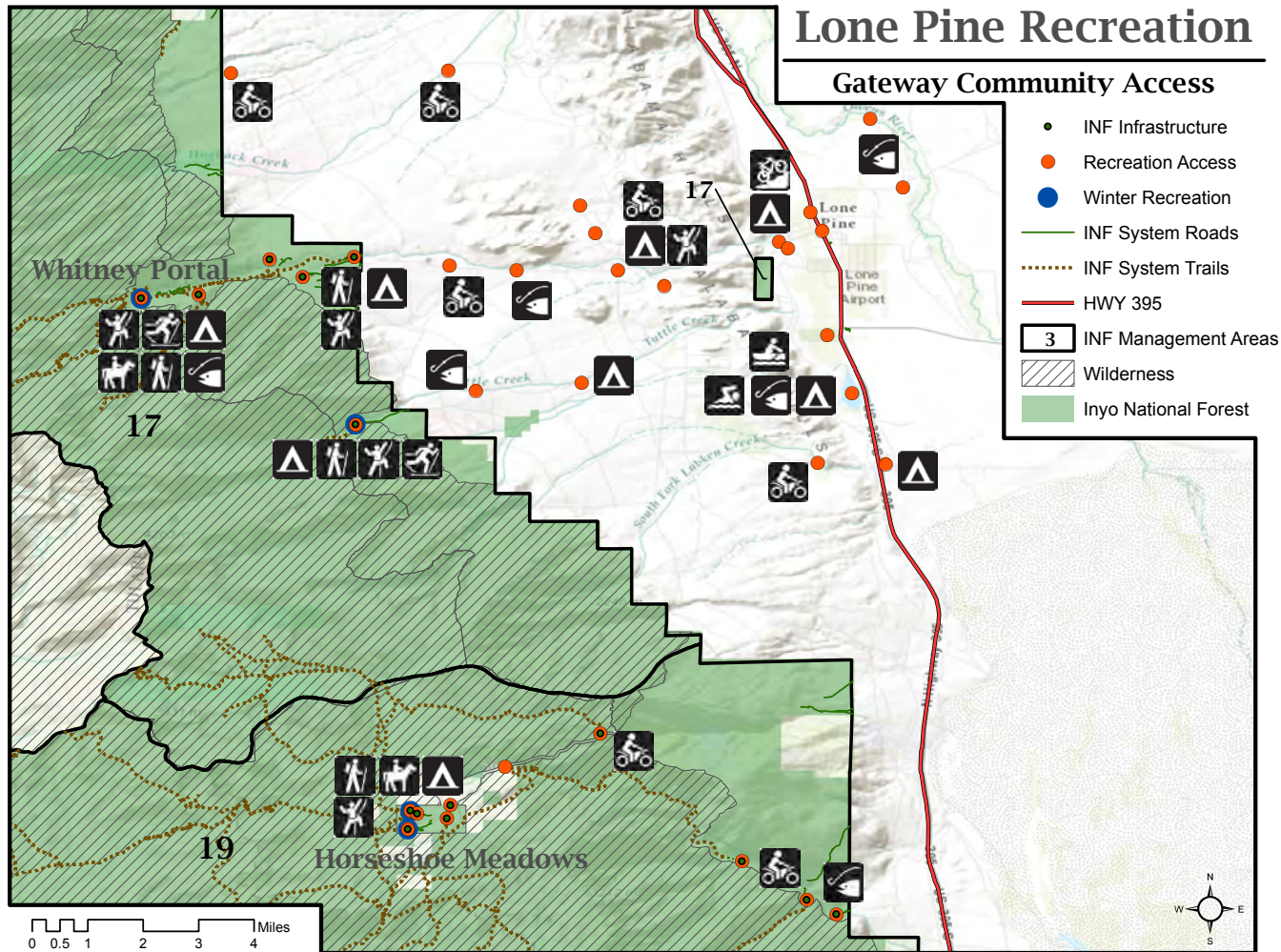
Gateway Community Access

Bishop Recreation Gateway Community Access



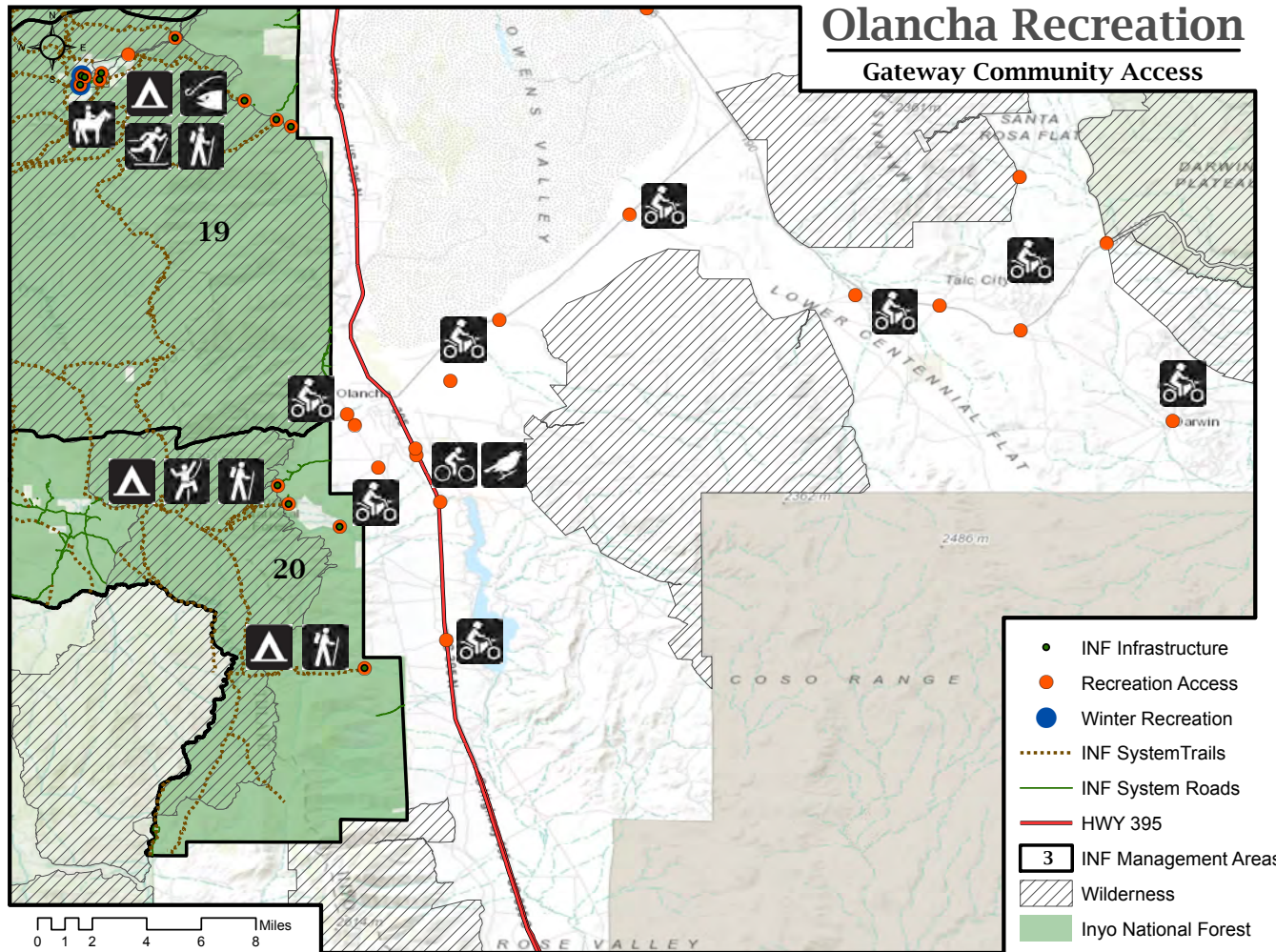
Lone Pine Recreation

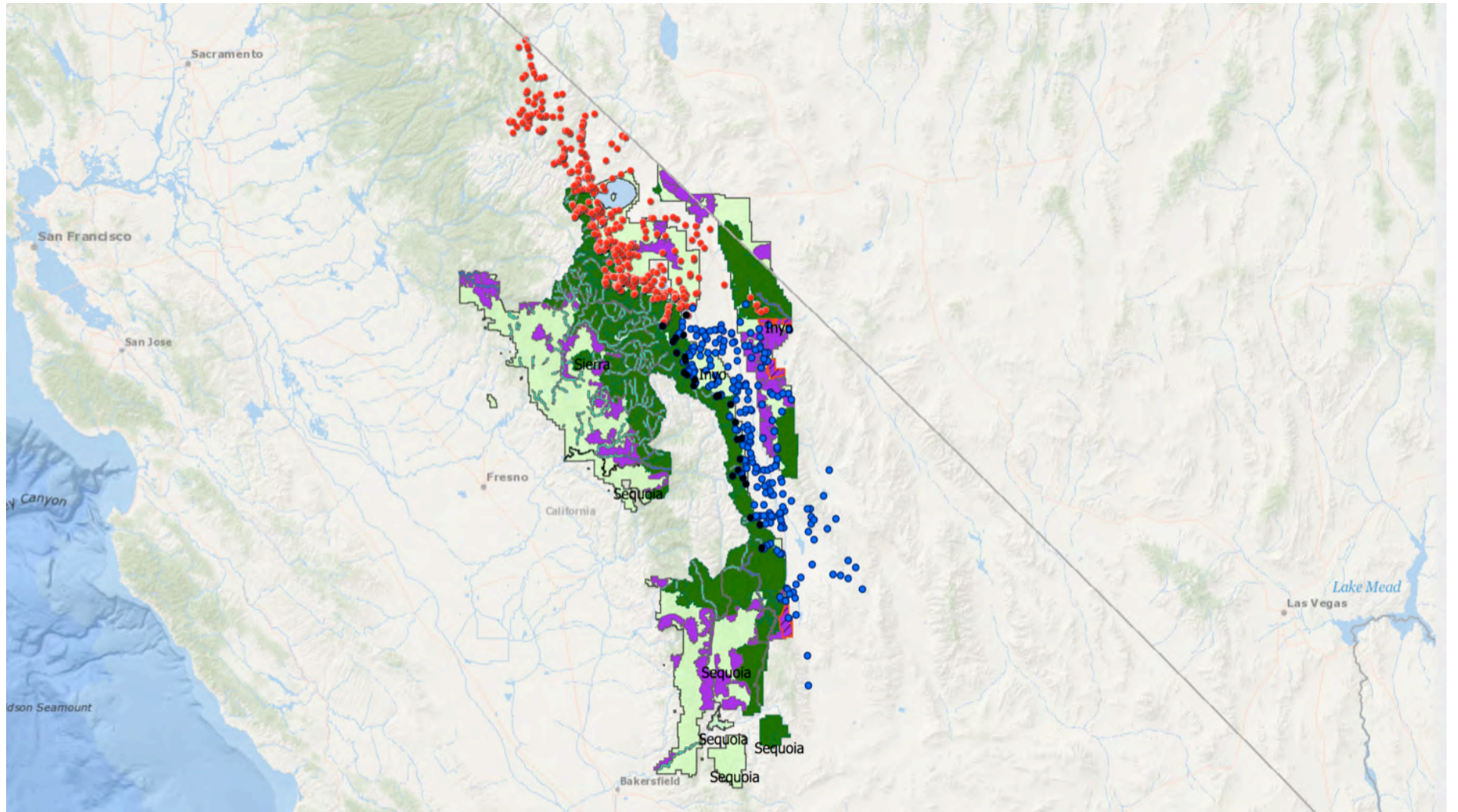
Gateway Community Access



Olancha Recreation

Gateway Community Access





“2012 Planning Rule for Land Management Planning for the National Forest System”

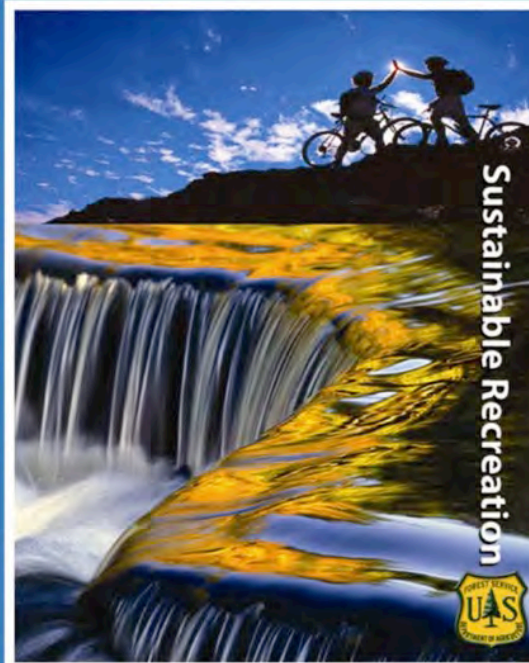
“The intent is to allow the Forest Service to adapt management to changing conditions and encourage more frequent amendments based on new information and monitoring.”

U.S. Forest Service – “Summary of the Final Land Management Planning Rule” - March 23, 2012

Sustainability

Connecting People with America's Great Outdoors:

A Framework for Sustainable Recreation

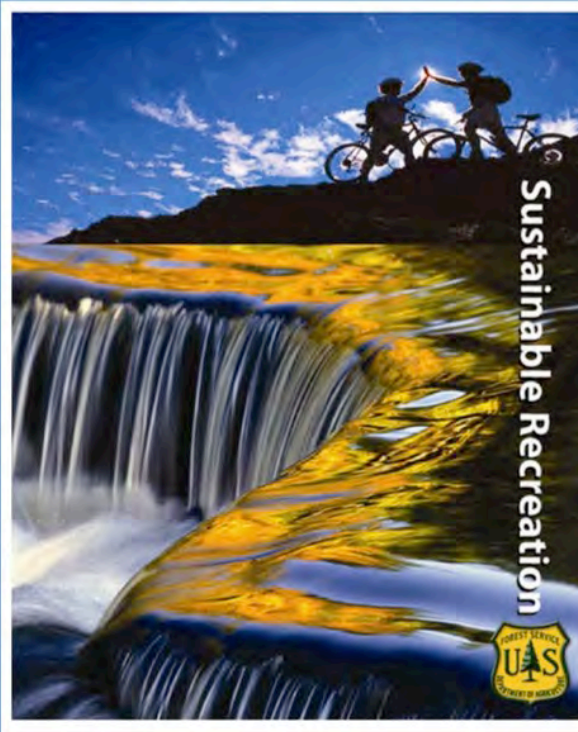


*United States Forest Service, USDA
Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources*

June 25, 2010

Connecting People with America's Great Outdoors:

A Framework for Sustainable Recreation



*United States Forest Service, USDA
Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources*

June 25, 2010

Goals:

- **Provide** a diverse range of quality natural and cultural resource based recreation opportunities in partnership with people and communities.
- **Protect** the natural, cultural, and scenic environment for present and future generations to enjoy.
- **Partner** with public and private recreation benefit providers that - together - we meet public needs and expectations.
- **Perform and plan** by implementing systems and processes to ensure: effective decisions, sound investments, and accountability; collaborative approaches to integrated solutions across the landscape; and enhanced professionalism of our workforce.

“The condition of our recreation and heritage assets has steadily diminished, resulting in a ballooning backlog of maintenance needs for recreation facilities, trails, and roads.”

“The condition of our recreation and heritage assets has steadily diminished, resulting in a ballooning backlog of maintenance needs for recreation facilities, trails, and roads.”

“National economic conditions and mounting financial demands underscore the inadequacy of traditional funding sources to meet growing needs...”

Outdoor Recreation Movement

The Outdoor Recreation Economy



TAKE IT OUTSIDE FOR AMERICAN
JOBS AND A STRONG ECONOMY



Economic Benefits:

- 6.1 million American jobs
- \$646 billion in outdoor recreation spending each year
- \$39.9 billion in federal tax revenue
- \$39.7 billion in state/local tax revenue

The State of the Outdoor Industry

EVERYTHING GROWS OUTSIDE, INCLUDING JOBS AND THE ECONOMY.

Much has changed since 2006 when Outdoor Industry Association commissioned the first economic study on outdoor recreation in the United States. The Great Recession radically altered consumer spending habits, unemployment reached its highest level in decades, and federal and state deficits resulted in massive spending cuts.

Despite the uncertainty, more than 140 million Americans make outdoor recreation a priority in their daily lives, proving it with their wallets by putting \$646 billion of their hard-earned dollars right back into the economy. Even better, this spending directly results in highly sought-after jobs for 6.1 million Americans.

At the core of the outdoor recreation economy is the outdoor consumer, whose diverse interests fuel a robust and innovative industry. Today's outdoor lovers aren't confined to traditional demographics or activity segments. They seek meaningful outdoor experiences in their backyards and in the backcountry. They are all genders, ages, shapes, sizes, ethnicities and income levels. They live throughout America, and they view outdoor recreation as an essential part of their daily lives. They fill their garages with bicycles, dirt bikes, backpacks, boats, skis, tents, hunting rifles and fishing gear. This is redefining the outdoor industry, an evolution that is evident in the growth of sales and jobs since 2006.

In short, outdoor recreation is a growing and diverse economic super sector that is a vital cornerstone of successful communities that cannot be ignored. Most importantly, outdoor recreation is no longer a "nice to have," it is now a "must have" as leaders across the country recognize the undeniable economic, social and health benefits of outdoor recreation.



AMERICANS SPEND
NEARLY AS MUCH
ON SNOW SPORTS
(\$53 BILLION)
AS THEY DO ON
INTERNET ACCESS
(\$54 BILLION).

Economic Benefits:

- 6.1 million American jobs
- \$646 billion in outdoor recreation spending each year
- \$39.9 billion in federal tax revenue
- \$39.7 billion in state/local tax revenue

Outdoor Recreation Is Big Business

Outdoor recreation is bigger than you think and a significant economic driver in the United States.

More than 140 million Americans make outdoor recreation a priority in their daily lives – and they prove it with their wallets. Each year, Americans spend \$646 billion on outdoor recreation.

An Overlooked Economic Giant

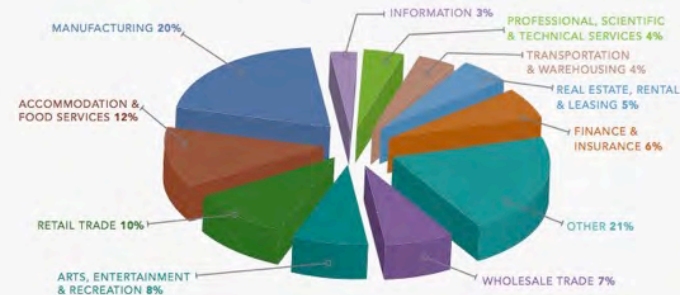
Annual Consumer Spending, in Billions



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal Consumption Expenditures by Type of Product, based on available 2010 data.

Outdoor Recreation is Essential to the American Economy

The impact of outdoor recreation reaches far beyond the outdoor industry, directly fueling major traditional American economic sectors.

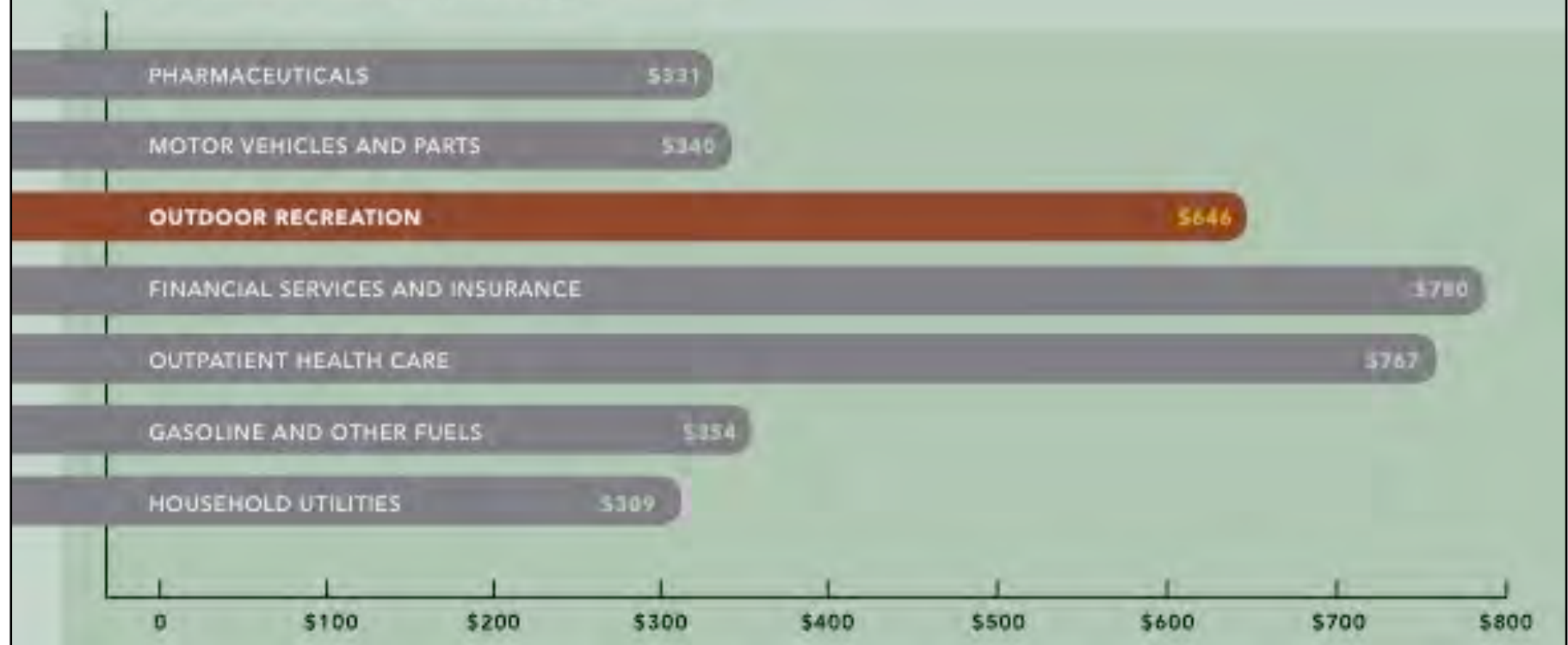


AMERICANS SPEND MORE ON BICYCLING GEAR AND TRIPS (\$81 BILLION) THAN THEY DO ON AIRPLANE TICKETS AND FEES (\$51 BILLION).



An Overlooked Economic Giant

Annual Consumer Spending, in Billions





STATE LEADERSHIP ROLES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION:

A PROMISING TREND

ENSURING THE GROWTH AND SUCCESS OF THE OUTDOOR INDUSTRY



SHIFT

WWW.SHIFTJH.ORG

INSPIRING THE OUTDOOR
RECREATION/CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Convergence

“Secretary Jewell Offers Vision for Next 100 Years of Conservation in America”



Dept. of Interior Press Release – 4/19/2016

“Secretary Jewell announced that the federal government will undertake a first-of-its-kind study to analyze the impact outdoor recreation has on the nation’s economy.”

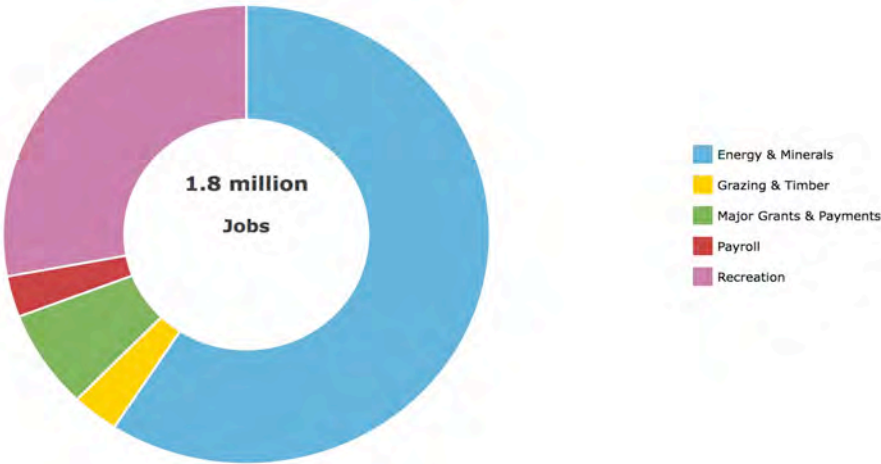
“This project is the start of a multi-year effort to count these contributions in a comprehensive and impartial way.”

DOI Economic Contributions to the National Economy

In FY 2015, DOI activities supported a total of 1.8 million jobs, \$167 billion in value added and \$296.1 billion in economic output.

Jobs Value Added Economic Output

Contributions by DOI Activity



DOI Activity (FY 2015)	Jobs	Value Added	Economic Output
Energy & Minerals	838.69 K	102.48 B	182.29 B
Grazing & Timber	44.23 K	367.86 M	3.34 B
Major Grants & Payments	98.38 K	7.6 B	10.57 B
Payroll	40.99 K	3.61 B	6.54 B
Recreation	396.19 K	25.64 B	45.49 B
Total Contributions to the National Economy	1.78 M	167.01 B	296.1 B

DOI Economic Contributions by Activity

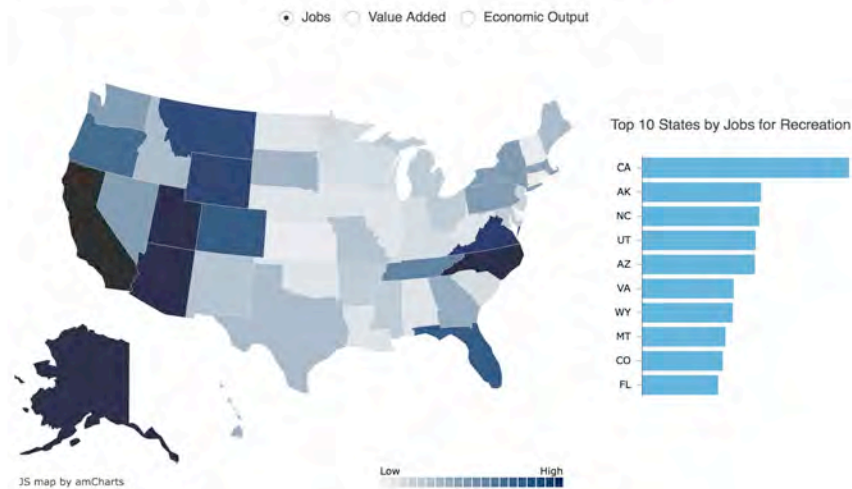
DOI activities are grouped into five categories: Energy & Minerals, Grazing & Timber, Recreation, Grants & Payments, and DOI Payroll. Please select an activity type to view contributions by activity:



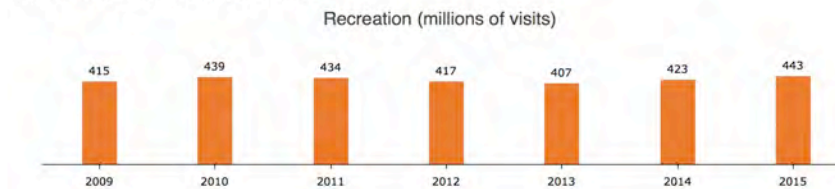
DOI Total Recreation Contributions

In FY 2015, DOI recreation activities supported a total of 396.2 thousand jobs, \$25.6 billion in value added and \$45.5 billion in economic output.

Hover over each state to see recreation jobs, value added, or economic contributions by state:



DOI Total Recreation Trends





MANAGING PUBLIC LANDS

U.S. Forest Service strategy offers candid look at system in disarray

ROB CHANEY rchaney@missoulian.com Feb 6, 2016



TOM BAUER, Missoulian

[Buy Now](#)

The recreation area at Lolo Pass attracts thousands of skiers, snowmobilers and snowshoe enthusiasts in the winter, and is run through a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and local non-governmental organizations. That strategy has worked well for the Forest Service, which in its own recent analysis is generally lacking the funding and workforce resources to adequately manage public lands for recreation, heritage and wilderness.



A new strategy for managing public lands for recreation, heritage and wilderness paints a bleak picture of the U.S. Forest Service's

**The Northern Region
Sustainable
Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness (RHW)
Strategy**

2015-2020

August 3, 2015



The Northern Region Sustainable Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness (RHW) Strategy

2015-2020

August 3, 2015



Southwestern Region Sustainable Recreation Strategy



*"Renewing body and spirit,
inspiring passion for the land."*

<http://www.reclink.us>



Southwestern Region of the Forest Service

February, 2014

Prepared by the Southwestern Sustainable Recreation Strategy Team:

- Chris W Furr District Ranger, Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson National Forest
- Josh Hall Air & Water Quality Specialist
- Pat Jackson Chief of Staff, RO
- Kyung Koh Recreation Planner, Regional Office (RO)
- Mindi Lehwew Natural Resource Specialist, Coronado National Forest
- James Melonas New Mexico State Liaison
- Danny Montoya Director of Engineering, RO
- Kelly Russell Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest
- Francisco Valenzuela Director of Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness Resources, RO
- Sharon Wallace Public Services Staff Officer, Tonto National Forest
- Troy Waskey Former Recreation Staff, Carson National Forest

Southwestern Region Sustainable Recreation Strategy



Southwestern Region of the Forest Service
February, 2014

Prepared by the Southwestern Sustainable Recreation Strategy Team:

- Chris W Furr District Ranger, Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson National Forest
- Josh Hall Air & Water Quality Specialist
- Pat Jackson Chief of Staff, RO
- Kyung Koh Recreation Planner, Regional Office (RO)
- Mindi Lehwew Natural Resource Specialist, Coronado National Forest
- James Melonas New Mexico State Liaison
- Danny Montoya Director of Engineering, RO
- Kelly Russell Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest
- Francisco Valenzuela Director of Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness Resources, RO
- Sharon Wallace Public Services Staff Officer, Tonto National Forest
- Troy Waskey Former Recreation Staff, Carson National Forest

DRAFT - Deschutes National Forest Sustainable Recreation Situation Assessment

Purpose of Assessment

The National Forests and Grasslands provide the greatest diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities in the world, connecting people with nature in an unmatched variety of settings, activities and traditional beliefs. The growing challenge of sustaining outdoor recreation opportunities requires a clear national vision and a bold strategy to meet the environmental, social and economic needs of present and future generations. To address this need, the Forest Service developed *A Framework for Sustainable Recreation* (final release June 25, 2010) <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/rhwr/index.shtml>.

The Framework focuses on three spheres that frame sustainability – environmental, social and economic. It establishes Guiding Principles intended to help deliver the mission/vision of the Framework, and ten Focus Areas which comprise high leverage actions that can help achieve a sustainable recreation program.

The purpose of the situation assessment is to evaluate the current situation of the recreation program and identify a strategy that will help the Deschutes meet the Forest Service mission identified in the Framework:

"To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forest and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."

Utilizing the Guiding Principles and Focus Areas identified in the Framework, the situation assessment helps determine:

- Where to focus energy and leverage actions in order to move forward.

Overview of Recreation on the Deschutes

In the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6), the national forests of Oregon and Washington are proximate to large population centers as well as small rural communities. Markets for outdoor recreation include urban populations from the Portland and Seattle metropolitan areas as well as a local and international client base. Due to the wide range of visitors, recreation and tourism is not only important on a local level, but also within a larger geographic context. Consequently, Region 6 forests are well suited to provide leadership for building partnerships and citizen stewards on a local and regional scale.





United States Department of Agriculture

National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System

DISCUSSION DRAFT



February 22, 2016



Forest Service



United States Department of Agriculture

Draft Revised Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest

Fresno, Inyo, Madera, Mono and Tulare Counties,
California; Esmeralda and Mineral Counties, Nevada



Forest
Service

Pacific Southwest
Region

Inyo National
Forest

R5-MB-294

May
2016



Uniquely Federal Responsibilities

- **National Park Service Centennial Act (S. XXX /H.R.4680)**

Uniquely Federal Responsibilities

- **National Park Service Centennial Act (S. XXX /H.R.4680)**
- **Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S.235/H.R.167)**

Uniquely Federal Responsibilities

- **National Park Service Centennial Act (S. XXX /H.R.4680)**
- **Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S.235/H.R.167)**
- **Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions (REC) Act
(S. 2219/ H.R. 4665)**

Uniquely Federal Responsibilities

- **National Park Service Centennial Act (S. XXX /H.R.4680)**
- **Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S.235/H.R.167)**
- **Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions (REC) Act
(S. 2219/ H.R. 4665)**
- **Recreation Not Red-Tape (RNR) Act (S. 2706 and HR 4790)**

Uniquely Federal Responsibilities

- **National Park Service Centennial Act (S. XXX /H.R.4680)**
- **Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S.235/H.R.167)**
- **Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions (REC) Act (S. 2219/ H.R. 4665)**
- **Recreation Not Red-Tape (RNR) Act (S. 2706 and HR 4790)**
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (S.338/H.R.1814)**

Uniquely Federal Responsibilities

- **National Park Service Centennial Act (S. XXX /H.R.4680)**
- **Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S.235/H.R.167)**
- **Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions (REC) Act (S. 2219/ H.R. 4665)**
- **Recreation Not Red-Tape (RNR) Act (S. 2706 and HR 4790)**
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (S.338/H.R.1814)**
- **Ongoing responsibility for Infrastructure Maintenance**



← LAKES BASIN PATH

1/4

PANORAMA MOUNTAIN BIKE LOOP



MAMMOTH ROCK TRAIL

1





Sustainable Recreation On the Ground

- **Local Jurisdictional Capacity and Funding**



Sustainable Recreation On the Ground

- **Local Jurisdictional Capacity and Funding**
- **Trail System MOU w/USFS**
- **Web Platform MOU w/USFS**



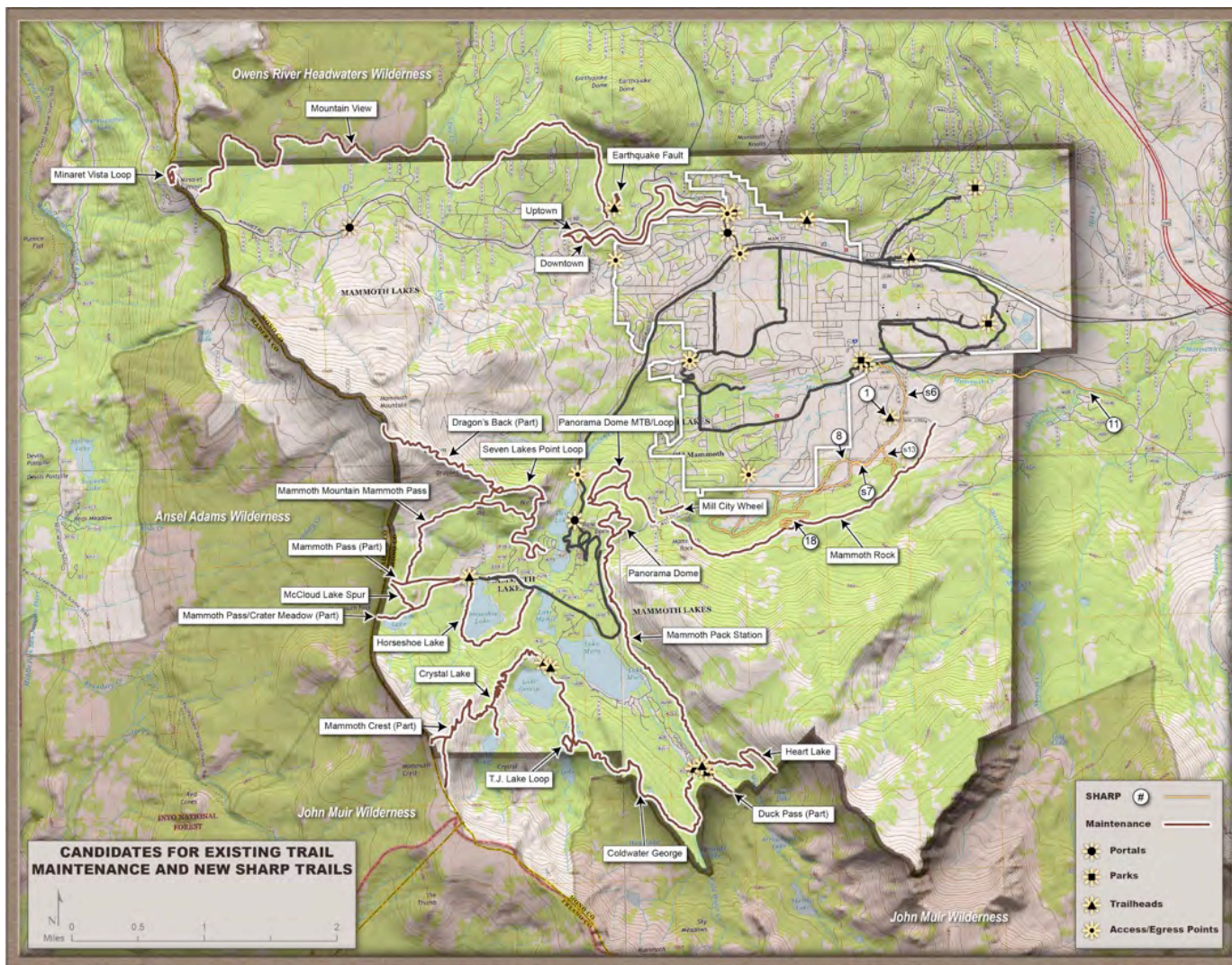
Sustainable Recreation On the Ground

- **Local Jurisdictional Capacity and Funding**
- **Trail System MOU w/USFS**
- **Web Platform MOU w/USFS**
- **Challenge Cost Share Agreement for Environmental Work (New Trail Construction)**
- **Challenge Cost Share Agreement for Soft Surface Trail Maintenance**



Sustainable Recreation On the Ground

- **Local Jurisdictional Capacity and Funding**
- **Trail System MOU w/USFS**
- **Web Platform MOU w/USFS**
- **Challenge Cost Share Agreement for Environmental Work (New Trail Construction)**
- **Challenge Cost Share Agreement for Soft Surface Trail Maintenance**
- **Cooperative Forest Road Agreement for Maintenance Opportunities**





THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE RECREATION

Inyo National Forest will serve as a proving ground for new U.S. Forest Service management strategy

By Res

Over sixty people showed up on Saturday, June 4 to volunteer for the Trail Days 2016 Kick-Off event at Panorama Dome in Mammoth's Lakes Basin, providing an example of what could be the future of trails on Forest Service land. Saturday's Mammoth Lakes Trail System event was funded by Measure R dollars in a partnership between the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Inyo National Forest. Volunteers were treated to food provided by New York Deli & Bagel Co. and Sunrise Rotary, as well as a raffle at the end of their work day with items donated by a myriad of sponsors including Friends of the Inyo and Footloose Sports.

"This is what sustainable recreation looks like," John Wentworth, CEO of Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTAP), told The Sheet on Saturday morning.

"Sustainable recreation" is a term that people who recreate in the National Forest system should familiarize themselves with, Wentworth told The Sheet.

First put forward by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in 2010 as "A Framework for Sustainable Recreation," the simple 8-page document emphasizes the importance of recreation in National Forests but makes note of the challenges facing infrastructure on USFS land—namely, a lack of funding, stretched resources and increased usage.

"The condition of our recreation and heritage assets has steadily diminished, resulting in a ballooning backlog of maintenance needs for recreation facilities, trails and roads," it reads.

"This was a testament from the Forest Service that they do not have the resources they need to do it by themselves...this is a very big deal internally in the Forest Service," said Wentworth.

He said that "gateway communities" to Forest Service land are in position to shape management policies.

"Mammoth Lakes is on the cutting edge of this," Wentworth said. "Communities like Mammoth are dependent upon public lands for their economies...The Forest Service has



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES

Kim Anacleto of Mammoth installs new signage on the Panorama Dome trail in the Lakes Basin. Volunteers like Anacleto may be the future of recreation in the U.S.

that Americans spend \$646 billion annually on recreating—more than on pharmaceuticals, fuels, or motor vehicles.

In a momentous statement in April, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced that the Department of the Interior would work with the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to author a study, the first of its kind, to measure the impact that outdoor recreation has on the U.S. economy.

Even as America becomes more urbanized, Americans are spending an unprecedented amount on recreation.

A document produced by the trade group Outdoor Industry Association called outdoor recreation "an overlooked economic giant." They found



PHOTO RES

If there's free watermelon, we're in. Tindall Dadds, 5, and Jake Peterson, 6, were some of the youngest volunteers at the Trail Days event on Saturday, June 4.

"Hunting, boating, hiking...and other outdoor activities are so closely tied to the health and accessibility of our public lands, yet this sector has, for too long, been overlooked and undervalued," said Jewell in her speech on April 19.

It's seen as a return to the ideas espoused by "original conservationists" like Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, who saw the preservation of public lands as a reward in its own right.

U.S. Forest Service employee Arthur Carhart once famously said, "The rebuilding of the body and spirit is the greatest service derivable from our forests," and current USFS Chief Tom Tidwell quoted Carhart in his introduction to the Framework for Sustainable Recreation.

"In 2009, outdoor recreation in the National Forest system generated \$14.5 billion in economic activity," said Tidwell, which was "almost half of the Forest Service's entire contribution to the economy."

Unfortunately, the Forest Service does not have the funding to keep up with the demand, and with the aforementioned "backlog" of maintenance projects comes a litany of spiraling problems.

"This is really a cry for help," said Wentworth of the Framework. "This is all part of a much bigger narrative" that requires private sector involvement to deliver services. Non-governmental agencies (local examples include such disparate entities as the Mono Lake Committee, Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center and Eastern Sierra Four Wheel Drive Club) will likely be the ones to fill the void.

To this end, the Inyo National Forest is the first of eighteen "early adopters" of the 2012 National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule. "The intent [of which] is to allow the Forest Service to adapt management to changing conditions and encourage more frequent amendments based on new information and monitoring," a summary states.

This includes strengthening the role of public involvement. "This is the first time in 28 years that the Inyo has revised their plan...significant things have changed," said Danna Stroud, part of the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative planning team. The last time the USFS released a Land and Resource Management Plan for the Inyo was in 1988.

"When you start thinking about a forest like the Inyo, there are activities we didn't even know existed in the '88 plan that are now being sought on this forest," said INP Public Relations Officer Deb Schweitzer. "We weren't a climbing or bouldering mecca in '88, and we are now."

"So much has changed that now is the time for these gateway communities to look at the next 20 years and what needs to be included in this plan," said Stroud. "Revisions that al-

RECREATION

continued from page 12

low the National Forests and Gateway Communities to be nimble enough to respond do the changes ahead."

The Sierra and Sequoia National Forests join the Inyo as the "early adopters" in California. These forests will serve as proving grounds for the new plan.

"We're the canary in the coal mine, we're first," said Wentworth of the Planning Rule. The rule's 1600-page draft plan was released on May 24 and is currently in public comment period, said Schweitzer.

Events like Saturday's may become the future of the Forest Service's management of public lands, funded by taxpayer money earmarked specifically for such projects. "This is Measure R dollars at work," Wentworth told The Sheet. The Mammoth Lakes Recreation, Trails and Parks Investment Initiative was approved by Mammoth voters in 2008, and is a fund derived from a one-half percent transactions tax specifically for recreation, managed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Measure R funds paid for signs that meet Forest Service specifications, for Friends of the Inyo employees who instructed volunteers on Saturday, as well as outreach for the event. "It's appropriated funds, taxpayer money, whether it comes from the Feds, County, Town, what difference does it

make?" asked Wentworth.

There are justifiable concerns about just how "sustainable" a future that depends on public involvement can be. Mammoth Lakes is a community utterly enmeshed in recreation ("Recreation is in our marrow," says Wentworth) and populated by people willing to volunteer their time, but not all gateway communities are as tied to recreation as Mammoth.

"I'm thinking about the other two forests (the Sierra and Sequoia) who have some very underserved and poorer communities, and I think that's a very valid concern," said Schweitzer when asked whether such communities could bolster the USFS as well as Mammoth.

Both Wentworth and Stroud pointed out communities like Susanville and Downville as examples of the model's success—both had depended on National Forest land logging and suffered economically after its decline. Both communities are now finding revitalization as mountain biking destinations.

"It's all scalable," said Stroud. "It's based on what your resources are, just because you may not be a second homeowner haven't Mammoth Lakes doesn't mean you don't have your own assets that you can build on."

When asked by The Sheet if the



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES

A large turnout for projects is a hallmark of the communities surrounding the Inyo National Forest, and non-governmental organizations play a key role in outreach. The coming decades will tell if the model is truly sustainable.

USFS was being "let off the hook" from its responsibilities to maintain infrastructure, Schweitzer said that the realities of budgeting simply cannot cover the demand from users.

"I think the reality is...our trail budget is probably a tenth of what it was at its peak," said Schweitzer. "So after a point...I think certain people say, if it's important to us because that's how we recreate, and if it's important

to our economy, people start looking for creative solutions."

"Just from a population perspective the demand and the use [of National Forests] has climbed significantly," said Stroud. "And what hasn't increased is the funding and staffing levels of the Forest Service to maintain the human part of the National Forest experience."


facebook.com/mammothoutdoorsports



Bring this ad for a free swag and chance to win a Scott mountain bike and 15% discount on bike rentals and new bikes.



Check out our range of Scott bikes (for rent and for sale)

	
Volage Jr 24 only S 424.99	Aspect 970 only S 699.99
	
Confesso 730 only S 899.99	CR1 20 only S 1,999.99
	
Genius 740 only S 2,999.99	Gambler 730 only S 3,699.99

Deduct your rental fee from any bike purchase!
Mammoth Outdoor Sports, 452 Old Mammoth Rd
Mammoth Lakes, CA, (760) 934-3239






**NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
SUPER AWESOME BEER**

11AM - 8PM SUN - THURS, 11AM TO 9PM FRISAT
131 CRAWFORD - JUNE LAKE - CALIFORNIA - 93529
AMAZING FOOD FROM OHANAKSIRE 12PM - 6PM
JUNELAKEBREWING.COM





LYNN MORITON, BROKER-REALTOR®
SPECIALIZING IN JUNE LAKE PROPERTIES
760.648.7304
WWW.SIERRACRESTREALTY.COM

see RECREATION, page 13

Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

- **This is a Generational Opportunity**

Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

- **This is a Generational Opportunity**
- **An opportunity to align the Eastern Sierra with a National Outdoor Recreation Movement that is invested in Conservation Values**

Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

- **This is a Generational Opportunity**
- **An opportunity to align the Eastern Sierra with a National Outdoor Recreation Movement that is invested in Conservation Values**
- **An opportunity to invest in a Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Economy here in the Eastern Sierra**

Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan Revision

- **This is a Generational Opportunity**
- **An opportunity to align the Eastern Sierra with a National Outdoor Recreation Movement that is invested in Conservation Values**
- **An opportunity to invest in a Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Economy here in the Eastern Sierra**
- **An opportunity to invest in Public Lands for this Century and Beyond**

Republicans OK \$14M land-transfer lawsuit, say Utah must regain sovereignty



(Rick Egan | The Salt Lake Tribune) Lawmakers and environmental and public lands advocates rally against the public lands transfer in the capitol rotunda, Monday, March 2, 2015

Legal analysis » Lawyers say Utah should go to court to prove its case in the public-lands fight with the feds.

The federal government has no constitutional authority to permanently retain millions of acres in Western states, latecomers to the federal union that have thus been relegated to "second-class" status instead of sovereigns on equal footing with the older states to the east of the 100th meridian.

Inyo National Forest Draft Plan Focus Areas

✓ **Fire Management**

Inyo National Forest Draft Plan Focus Areas

- ✓ **Fire Management**
- ✓ **Ecological Integrity**

Inyo National Forest Draft Plan Focus Areas

- ✓ **Fire Management**
- ✓ **Ecological Integrity**
- ✓ **Sustainable Recreation**

ESRC – What's Next

- Three gateway Community Workshops designed to address how local sustainable recreation interests will be best reflected in the final management plan
- Address the economic value component for gateway communities
- Address the prospects for vital partnerships with the USFS



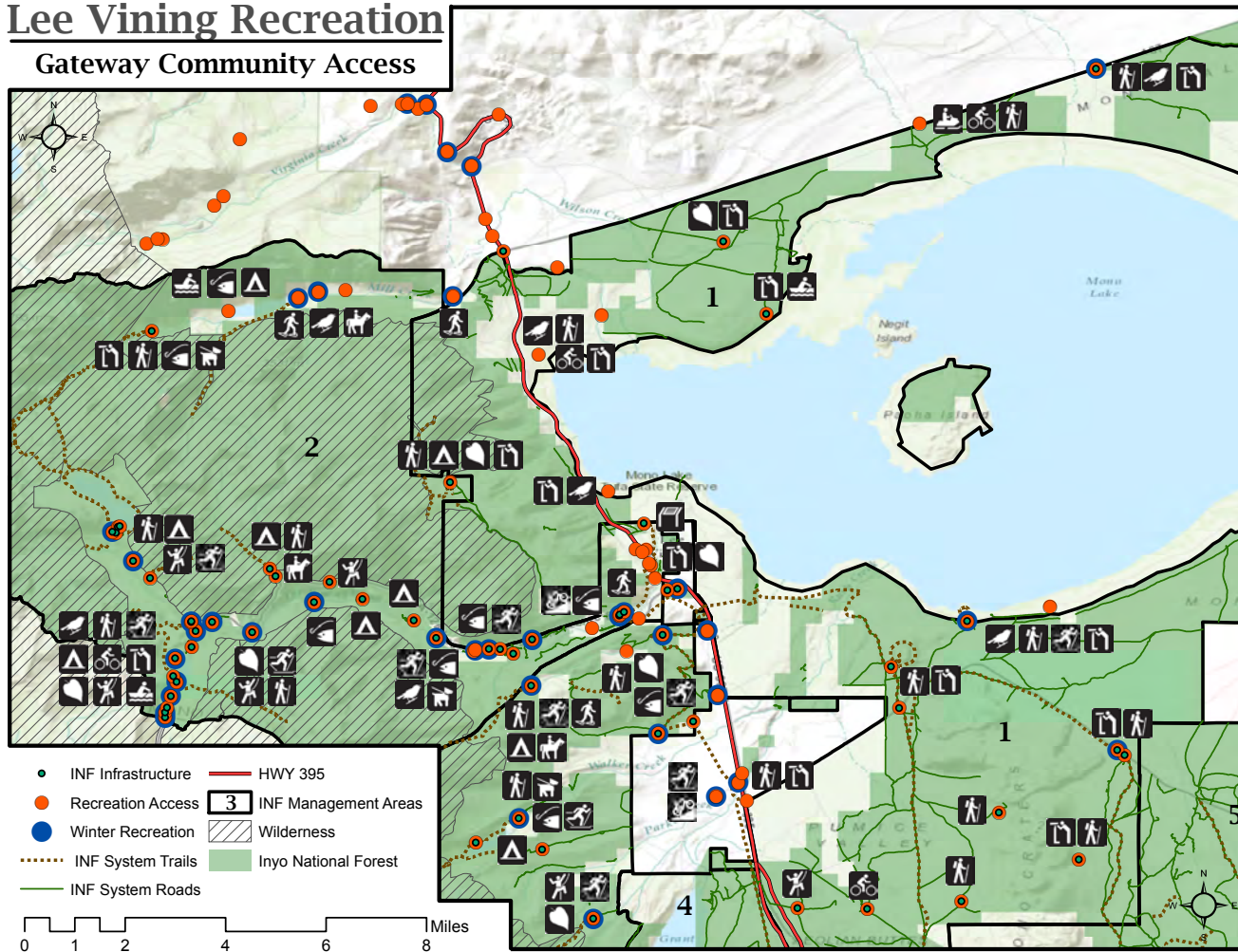
ESRC – What's Next

- Projected Final ESRC Comment product for review August 15
- **Note:** *The ESRC effort is not intended to replace or substitute for comments offered by individuals or groups but rather to offer a collective sustainable recreation lens on the final plan.*



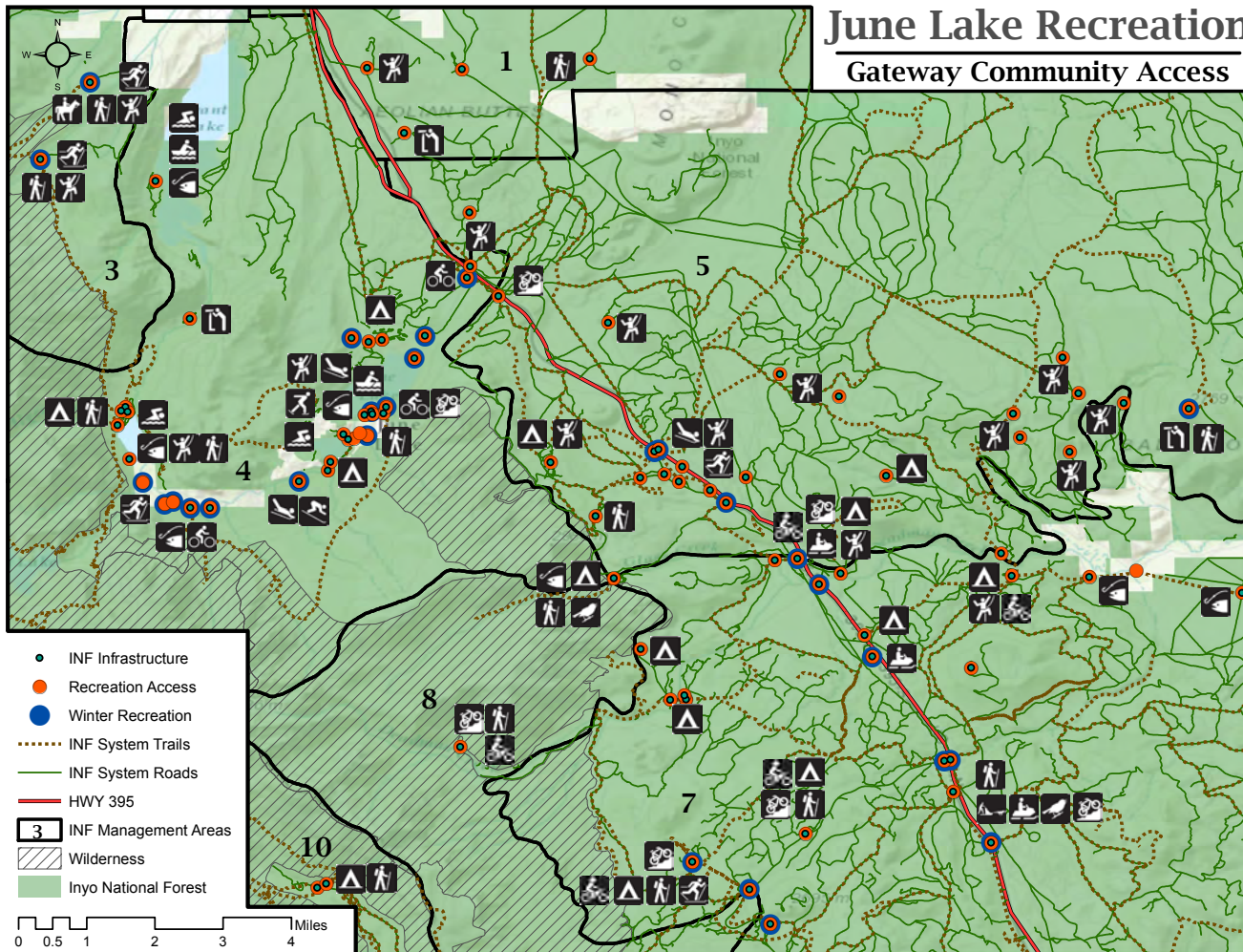
Lee Vining Recreation

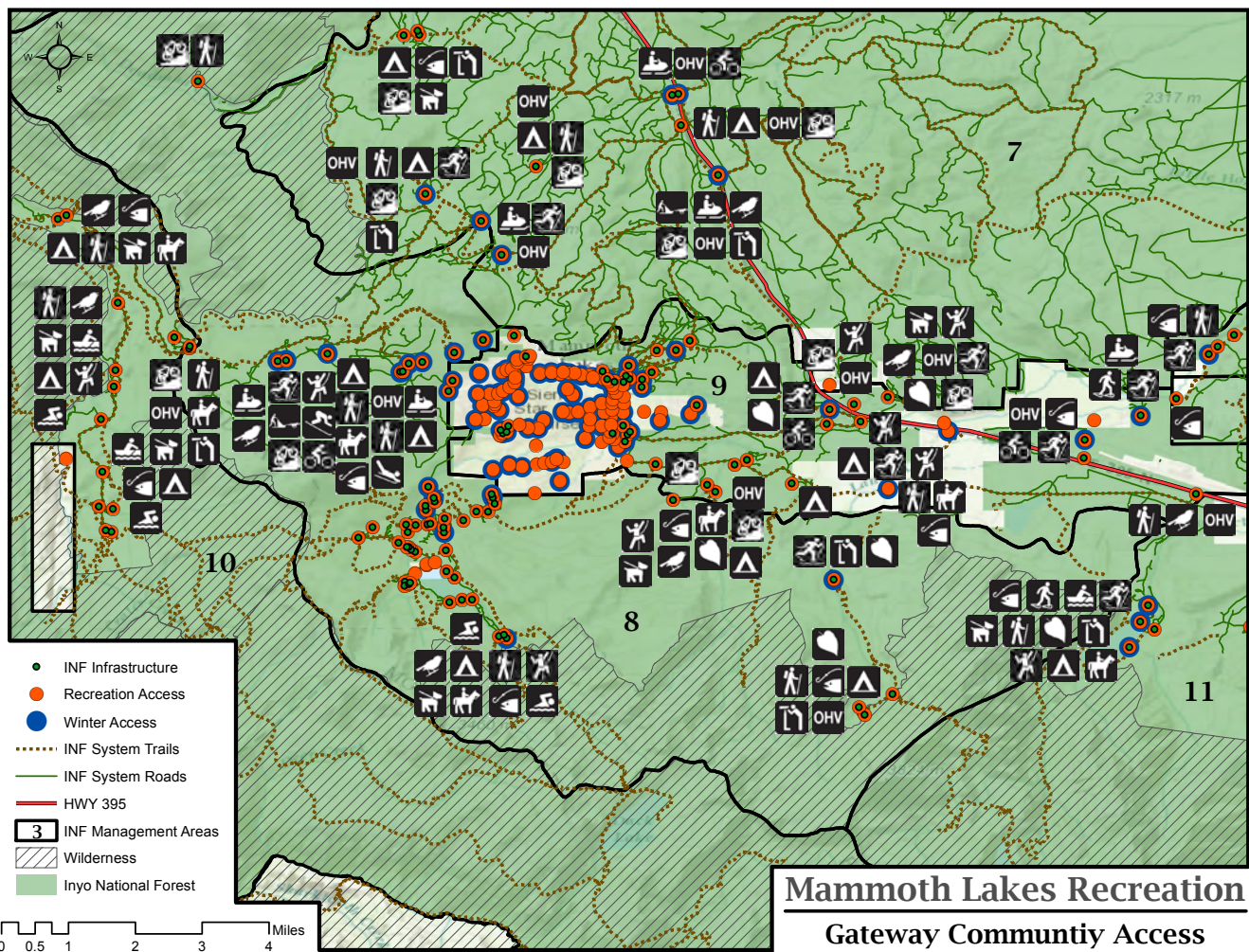
Gateway Community Access



June Lake Recreation

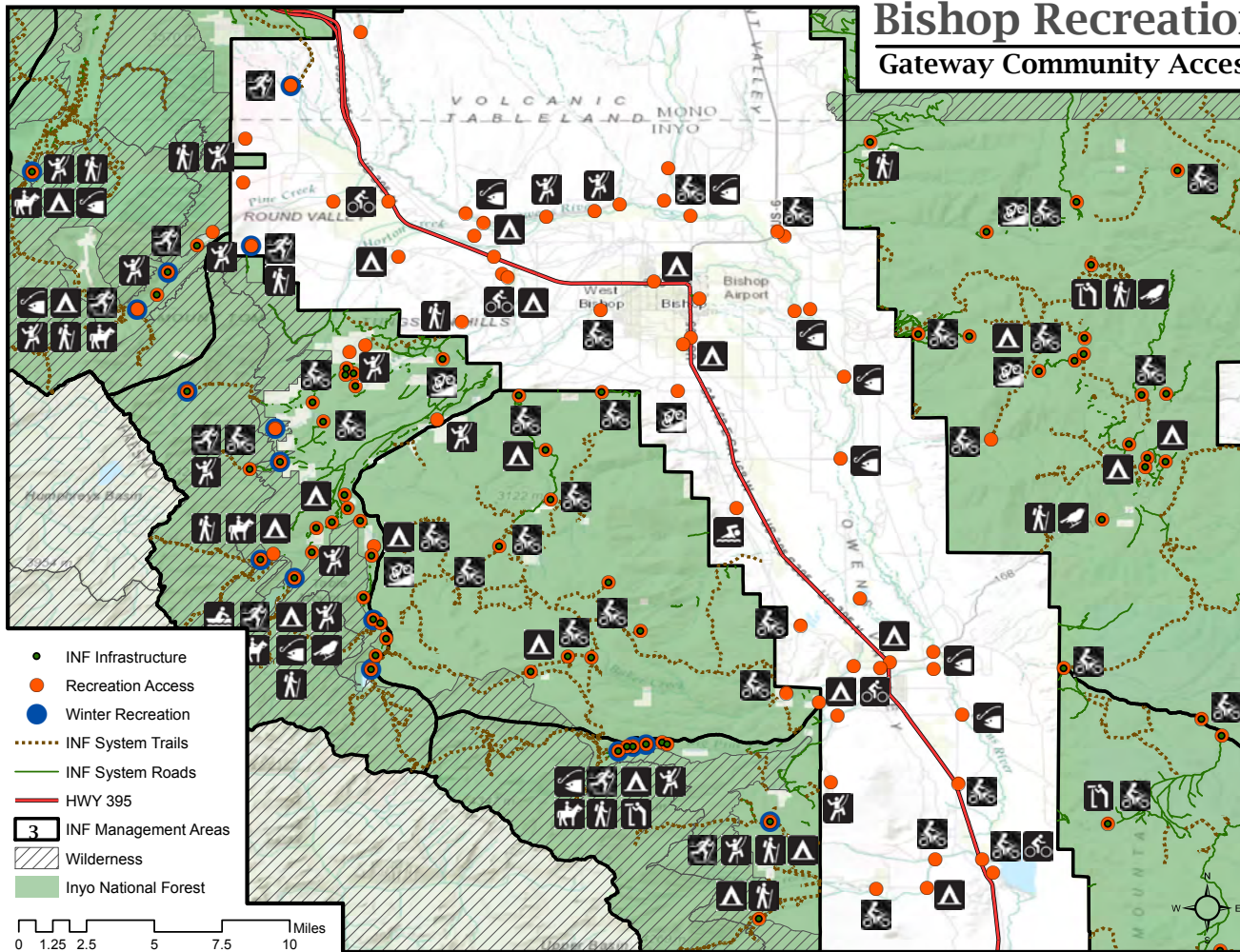
Gateway Community Access





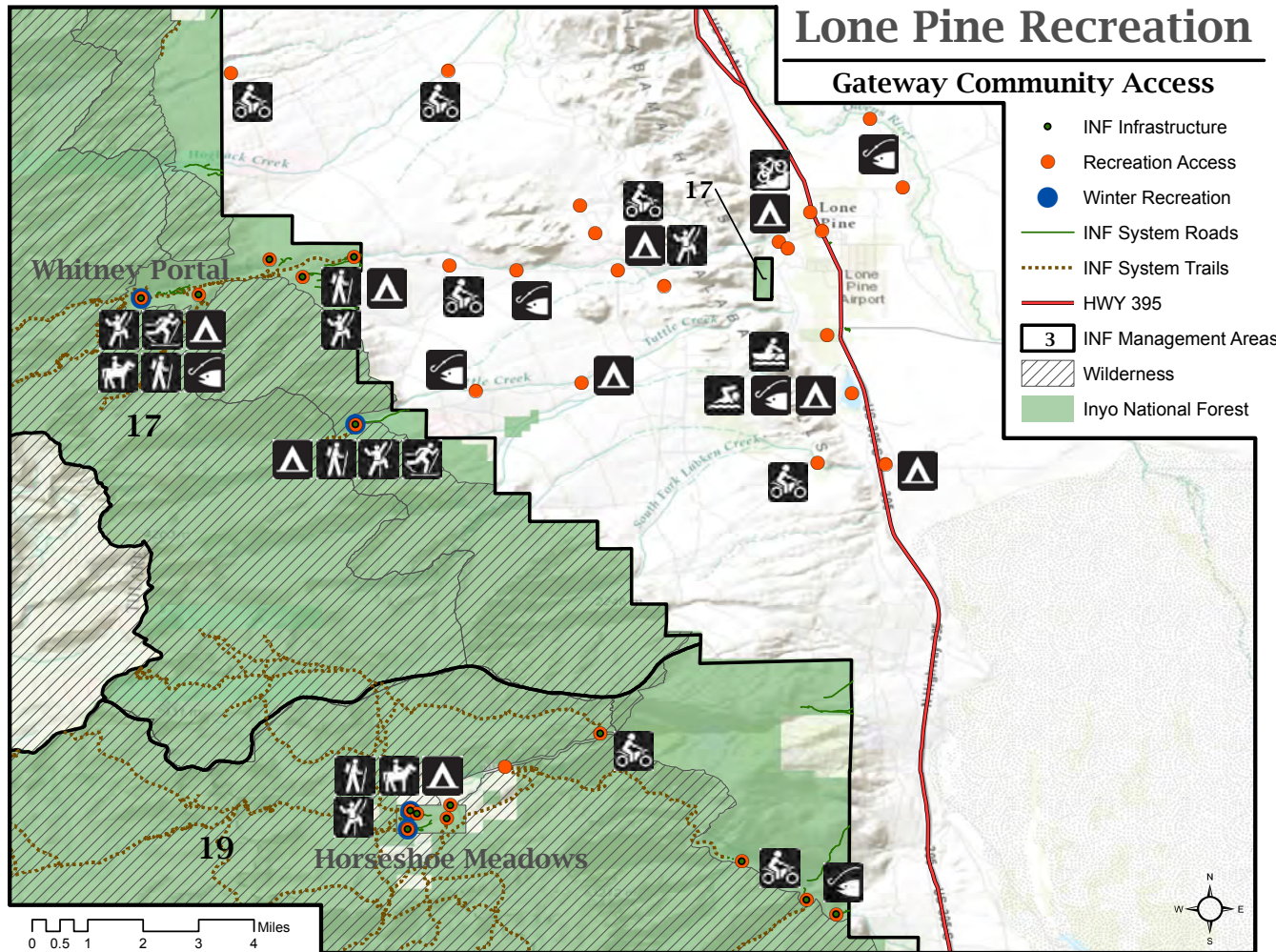
Mammoth Lakes Recreation Gateway Community Access

Bishop Recreation Gateway Community Access



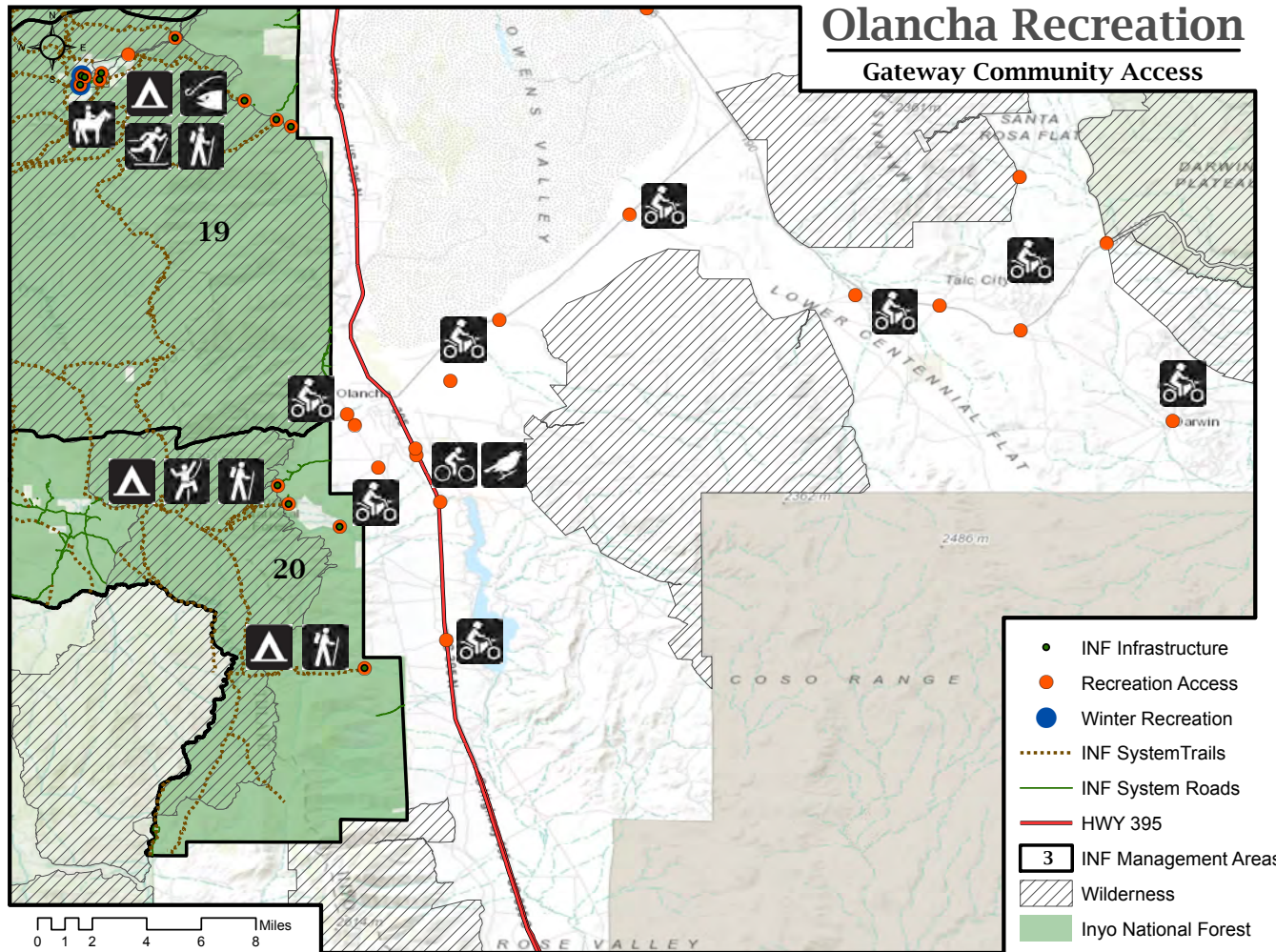
Lone Pine Recreation

Gateway Community Access



Olancha Recreation

Gateway Community Access



ESRC – What's Next

- What issues or questions would you like to see addressed at the Gateway Community meetings?
- What content or process would be helpful to enable the best possible participation at the Gateway Community meetings?

ESRC – On Line Resources

- eastsierrarec.org
- <http://mltpa.org/advocacy/esrc-public-meeting-information-2016>
- <http://www.sierrawave.net/advertising/>
- <http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters>



ESRC – Upcoming Meetings

EVENT SCHEDULE

Bishop | Mon., June 27 Cerro Coso Community College

June Lake | Mon., July 11 June Lake Community Center

Bishop | Mon., July 18 Tallman Pavillion, Tri-County Fairgrounds

Lone Pine | Mon., July 25 Statham Hall

Bishop | Mon., August 15 Cerro Coso Community College

All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end by 8:00 p.m.



ESRC – Upcoming Meetings

- How to prepare for effective participation



ESRC – Upcoming Meetings

- How to prepare for effective participation
- Closing Thoughts, Questions, Answers... (maybe)



Thank You!



ESRC – On Line Resources

- eastsierrarec.org
- <http://mltpa.org/advocacy/esrc-public-meeting-information-2016>
- <http://www.sierrawave.net/advertising/>
- <http://tinyurl.com/r5earlyadopters>



