

**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** March 1, 2017

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Mammoth Ranger District of the Inyo National Forest is initiating the environmental analysis process for the proposed Shady Rest Fat Bike Grooming project. Fat Bikes are non-motorized bicycles that have a tire tread width of at least 3.7 inches and are propelled by human effort. The project would add six miles of groomed trail and temporarily allow fat bikes on the trail system in Shady Rest Campground, currently groomed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes for cross country skiers, walkers, and snowshoers, see attached map. The Town of Mammoth Lakes is proposing an additional groomed trail (without nordic tracks) that will follow the blue diamond trail west of Sawmill Cutoff and extend to the existing road network to the northwest of Shady Rest Park. The proposed trail system will include four loop opportunities at the end of the blue diamond trail. This trail will be packed by a combination of methods including foot packing with snowshoes as well as snowmobiles with packing attachments. This effort will add approximately six additional miles to Shady Rest for fat biking and non-motorized opportunities.

The proposed fat bike grooming program is intended to be a pilot program and will coincide with the Town of Mammoth Lakes current grooming agreement which will expire 12/31/2017. If the Forest Service sees any unintended consequences or impacts due to the inclusion of fat bikes or additional trails they reserve the right to close the area with total cooperation from the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

My preliminary assessment is that this proposal falls within a category of actions listed in the Forest Service NEPA regulations (36 CFR part 220) that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and there are no extraordinary circumstances that would preclude use of the category (36 CFR 220.6.1.i— construction and reconstruction of trails.

### **Request for Comments**

The proposed action is currently available for a 3 week public scoping period. While you may comment at any time, the comments will be most useful by March 24, 2017. This scoping period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. We would like to invite your comments regarding issues, opportunities, concerns, and suggestions for the proposed project.

Comments can be submitted by mail or email. Mail written comments to Molly Burns PO Box 148 Mammoth Lakes CA, 93546. Electronic comments must be submitted in an email message to [mollybuns@fs.fed.us](mailto:mollybuns@fs.fed.us). Please contact Molly Burns, [mollyburns@fs.fed.us](mailto:mollyburns@fs.fed.us), (760) 924-5503 with any questions about the project.

Sincerely,



JON C. REGELBRUGGE  
District Ranger



