



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

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February 3, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Armenta,

On behalf of the Inyo County residents who have actively participated in the recently convened Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative (ESRC), we hereby extend our support on behalf of their efforts and appreciate your consideration of the "ESRC Proposed Recreation Strategy". We are encouraged by the enthusiasm of the participants, and support its recommendations that provide for enhanced recreation and access to the Forest.

As you know, a multitude of efforts are underway in the Eastern Sierra to enhance recreation and access to the Inyo National Forest. This work exemplifies the importance to local communities of recreating in and access to the Forest. As you also know, Inyo County has been working with the Forest Service for many years in developing the Inyo National Forest management plan revision. In particular, we are proud of the many public meetings we have held to provide local participation into the process, and reiterate the input that we have provided through those forums. We look forward to continuing to coordinate with you pursuant to our Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Plan, and we support regional collaborative efforts such as the ESRC to provide further public points of view.

Public lands make up more than 98 percent of our county, and the diverse recreation experiences and activities that visitors access through the Inyo National Forest continue to enhance the recreation and tourism segments of our economy. As such, we believe it is important to include a perspective provided by a recreation "lens" as developed by the ESRC when considering ecological restoration and public lands management decisions.

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

- Work with the Regional Forester to reasonably extend the DEIS schedule to allow opportunities for those aspects of the "ESRC Proposed Recreation Strategy" that enhance recreation and access to be reviewed and appropriately integrated into the draft alternatives of the DEIS.
- Consider integrating the ESRC collaborative model into future Inyo National Forest planning efforts. We believe that bringing together diverse interests to collaboratively engage with important land management issues leads to efficiency and publicly supported decisions.

We appreciate the challenges inherent to forest management plan revision efforts. We trust you will accept these recommendations in the spirit of community collaboration and a desire to elevate the importance of recreation and access to Inyo County and its visitors.

Mr. Ed Armenta, Forest Supervisor  
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Thank you again for the continuing opportunity to participate in development of the Inyo National Forest Plan Revision. If you have any questions, please contact County's Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, at (760) 878-0292 or by email at [kcarunchio@inyocounty.us](mailto:kcarunchio@inyocounty.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Kingsley".

Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Chairperson  
Inyo County Board of Supervisors