



42 meadows route comment

2 messages

Rick Ferdon <rferdon@valin.com>

Tue, Oct 30, 2012 at 1:46 PM

To: The BOSTWO <bostwo@edcgov.us>, "mike.applegarth@edcgov.us" <mike.applegarth@edcgov.us>

I know you asked me to put something together in regards to the 42 meadows routes that the Forest Service has now issued a proposed action on.

It is important to understand that the Forest Service originally wanted all 42 of these routes open to the public. During the Travel Management process in 2008 they issued a record of decision allowing use on all of those routes. It wasn't until the environmental side sued them over a process error that the routes were closed by the judge.

The current proposed action is to open up all of 40 of those routes entirely, and a portion of 2 of the routes, one that is on private property that dead ends in Leoni Meadows and one that goes to Richardson Lake and beyond (14N39)

I think it is very important that the County submit comments to the Forest Service fully supporting the proposed action but should also stress the importance of one segment of a route that they are recommending being closed, 14N39.

14N39 is a route that comes off of the Rubicon Trail near Miller Lake and goes up to Richardson Lake, from there it goes around the west side of the lake and up to the top of Sourdough Hill. That portion of the trail past Richardson Lake is proposed to be closed due to a meadow past the lake. Talking with people that have used that portion of the trail since the early 70's, the trail to the top of Sourdough Hill is very popular as it affords a very scenic overlook (attached) of the area west towards Look Lake. There is no water on the road at the time when people use it due to the fact of the direction it faces causes the snow to melt off of it long before vehicles are able to make it to past Richardson Lake. It is important to understand this meadow is not the flat grassy and wet meadow that most people think of. It is high in elevation and on a steep slope with no real water that exists except during the time that the snow melts or during a rain event. One of the pictures attached is the road going through the meadow.

There are many reason why all of the routes should be included and retained for Public use.

Travel Management closed hundreds of miles of Forest roads with the Record of Decision in 2008. Closing roads means those that use them are being displaced. Some will choose to use a road nearby while others choose to recreate in another County all together. The less roads that exist, the less recreation opportunities exist within the county which in turn leads to less visitors. Some of the 42 Meadow routes are truly the best 4-wheel drive trails the County and Forest has to offer to the recreating public. Many of these are very popular to people from faraway places and they come to drive specifically on just those trails such as Barrett, Deer Valley, Strawberry Creek etc.

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Having full access to routes also is a safety benefit. If a route is closed it becomes overgrown in a few short years and them when needed for firefighting abilities it is no longer passable.

The Forest has closed enough routes already, every last one if a benefit to the public.

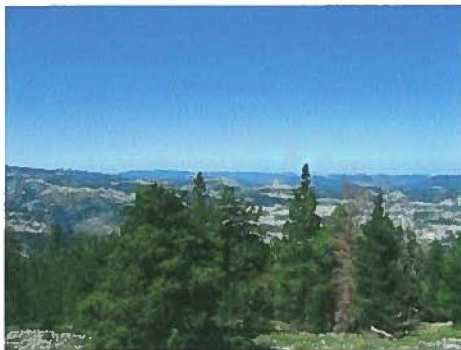
Rick Ferdon

Pollock Pines

Friends of Eldorado National Forest



2 attachments



02. Loon Lake.jpg.jpg
119K



rubicon41.jpg.jpg
165K

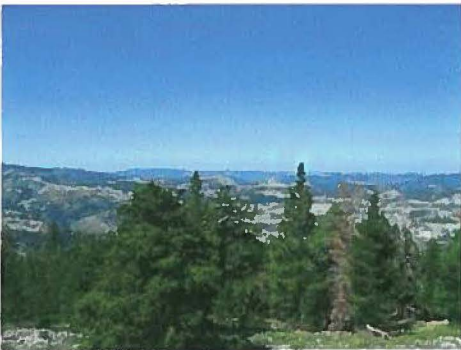
The BOSTWO <bostwo@edcgov.us>
To: Mike Applegarth <mike.applegarth@edcgov.us>

Thu, Nov 1, 2012 at 4:40 PM

Thank you.

Ray Nutting
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
530) 621-5651
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2 attachments



02. Loon Lake.jpg.jpg
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rubicon41.jpg.jpg
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