

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY
12:53 pm, Mar 08, 2011

LATE DISTRIBUTION
Date 12:53 pm, Mar 08, 2011

USDA United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

~~Regional Office, R5~~
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
(707) 562-8737 Voice
(707) 562-9240 Text (TDD)

File Code: 1920-2-1/7700
Route To:

Date: May 11, 2010

Subject: Travel Management

To: Forest Supervisors and Directors

Introduction

This letter describes the strategy that I expect to be used throughout the Region in order to accomplish the requirements in 36 CFR 212.5 (Subpart A) within the January 2012 timeframe. The completion of the Travel Analysis Process is a Regional Priority.

End-State

The purpose of 36 CFR 212.5 (Subpart A) is twofold, the first-to identify and describe the minimum road system needed for the management of each National Forest; second-to identify unneeded roads. It is important for all of us to understand that Subpart A is an analytical process and not a decision making process. Toward that end, I expect the Subpart A process to be developed as a management tool that enables us to more effectively manage the National Forest Road system. When completed this analysis is expected to:

See Wilderness Society letter p. 5

only one for keeping roads

- Describe the minimum road system needed to accommodate public uses and administrative management of the national forests.
- Enable managers to describe and evaluate the trade-offs for routes that may be desirable to keep on the system in excess of the minimum system.
- Allow managers to identify unneeded roads where options may be available for conversion to a trail.
- Identify those roads that are unneeded and describe the priority and timeframe needed for decommissioning.

burden to keep route

We are required to use science-based analytical processes. It is important that our data is understandable and our methods transparent; that we are using readily available and relevant scientific literature; and that we disclose assumptions and reveal limitations to the information on which the analysis is based. I expect this process to inform the science-based analysis for Forest Plan Revisions, restoration, or other activities in the future.

In order to complete the work within the anticipated timeframe, I am identifying the following principles that I expect Forest Supervisor's to adhere to throughout the process including:



Landy Moore said: "local decision"
2

- The Regional Office will describe the process framework to ensure a consistent approach. Forest Supervisors are expected to work within this framework.
- The Regional Office will guide efforts within the framework, but will not prescribe specific methodologies.
- The Regional Office will describe standards and measures to facilitate the process, including describing the tools for analysis and reporting.
- The Regional Office will establish expectations of performance to track progress throughout the process. Forest Supervisors will be expected to use Microsoft Project Manager to manage the progress of Forest staff.

Roles and Responsibilities

Regional Line Officer Lead – Deputy Regional Forester, will serve as the Regional Forester team lead.

Steering Committee – I am assigning the following Directors and Forest Supervisors to work together as a steering committee, to provide the Deputy Regional Forester and I with strategic considerations:

George Kulick (Chair)	Marlene Finley	Sherry Reckler	Alice Carlton
Jim Upchurch	Jayne Handley	Deb Whitman	Tyrone Kelley
Tina Welch	Amanda Cundiff		

I expect this Committee to meet regularly, no less than once a month, in order to offer coordinated guidance and policy interpretation to the Forests. Guidance to the Forests will often be by letter, signed by an appropriate line officer. The Regional Office will develop a uniform and broad framework that Forest staff are expected to use as we complete the analysis embodied in the six required steps to complete the process. Any deviation from this broad framework must be proposed to and approved by the Regional Office Lead Line Officer. The Committee is also expected to participate in Regional meetings, workshops, and conference calls with Forest Supervisors regarding the requirements for the completion of Travel Management Subpart A. Committee members are expected to consult with their counterparts in the Washington Office, OGC and other Directors as needed. The Committee will report to the Regional Line Officer Lead.

Project Management – The following individuals are responsible for the management of the Region 5 Travel Management Subpart A process:

John Booth, Deputy Director, Engineering
Ron Pugh, Deputy Director, Ecosystem Planning
Kathleen Mick, Regional Trails Program Manager, Recreation,

This group is expected to function as a team to manage the Travel Management, Subpart A process. John and Ron are responsible for the coordination of regional direction (including any reviews that may be required), the interpretation of policy, and for communication with

leadership. Both are expected to work closely with Kathleen Mick for the duration of the process. Ron Pugh is expected to coordinate public involvement. Ron will work closely with Public Affairs Officers to inform, involve, and consult with the public during all phases of the analysis, create a communication plan, develop talking points, press releases, or other activities that effectively engage the public. I view public participation as an opportunity to help people understand that travel analysis is an important part of effectively managing to meet the access needs of the public and the administrative requirements of the agency.

Kathleen Mick will serve as the Project Manager for at least the initial 12 months of the process. Kathleen will be responsible for coordinating Regional support for Forest level analysis and for the coordination of the individual forest efforts to ensure a consistent approach across the Region. Kathleen will be the primary point of contact for Forest Staff during the initial 12 months of the project.

John Booth will serve as coordinator for the Steering Committee and project lead for subject matter, concerning the management of road systems.

Regional Office Support Team – Directors are expected to direct their staff to support this effort. Rather than identify specific individuals for a team, I am expecting that the appropriate Regional Specialists will be involved as needed to help forest staff complete analytical processes. Regional support is expected to include resource program managers and members of the Strategic Decision Support Cadre.

Strategic Decision Support Cadre:

The Strategic Decision Support Cadre is expected to support the development of the proposed procedures and associated analysis products for the implementation of Travel Analysis Planning (TAP) in Region 5. 'Support' is expected to include:

- Beta-testing proposed procedures and/or analysis products for "fatal flaws" using test-bed forests (currently the Inyo and Eldorado NF's). ★
- Preparing and presenting the recommended procedures and/or analysis products to the Steering Committee for approval.
- Support to individual Forests as needed (with the agreement of the Cadre's Executive Director)

The SDS Cadre is not expected to be responsible for the actual Forest level analysis required to complete TAP requirements or for the review of Forest TAP reports (unless a specific agreement is made with the SDS Cadre's executive director).

Test-Bed Forests:

The Test-Bed Forests (Eldorado and Inyo NF's) are expected to serve as the "first filter" for beta-testing proposed TAP procedures and associated analysis products developed by the SDS Cadre. Test-Bed Forests are expected to test the proposed procedures and/or analysis products to ensure that there are no "fatal flaws" in the proposed solutions derived; and that the solutions are

workable – given the time frame established for completing the TAP. After beta-testing, at the direction of the Steering Committee, proposed procedures and/or analysis products are released to forest units for region-wide vetting. When forest-unit feedback is obtained, the Test-Bed Forests are expected to assist the Project Leader (Kathy Mick) in formulating Steering Committee Briefing Papers, capturing significant points of departure from the proposed procedures and/or analysis products.

*Randy Moore meeting w/ RCRC
to discuss forest plan process*

Project Priority – I am identifying Subpart A as one of the top ongoing priorities for Region 5 with an anticipated completion date of January 1, 2012. The completion of Subpart A is expected to set the stage for collaborative participation in the plan revision process, inform the development of revised plans, and support the restoration of landscapes as a Regional emphasis for the future. I expect Regional Office Directors, Forest Supervisors, and their staffs to recognize the importance of the effort and to adjust priorities as may be needed. Potential conflicts with other project or program needs competing with the completion of Subpart A should be brought to my attention prior to any disruption in the completion of the six step process on each Forest.

3/23

Science – I expect the scientific community to be involved as needed throughout the process. The involvement of the scientific community will ensure that the best available science is identified, used and analyzed correctly. I expect the public to be involved in the identification of the science to be used and in the analytical phase of the project. Opportunities for engagement with the science community will be identified as the process is developed.

*BOS
should be
involved,
negotiating
the science*

Travel Analysis is an exciting opportunity to set the stage for the maintenance or restoration of social, economic, and ecological processes that can be sustained over time and to identify the minimum road system needed to support those activities on each of the National Forests in Region 5. The project will be challenging, but it is something we can and must do. I am confident that the individuals cited in this letter have the expertise, background energy, and wisdom to succeed in the completion to the Travel Management Process. Thank you in advance, for your help in completing this important project.

/s/ Debra L. Whitman (for)
RANDY MOORE
Regional Forester