

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Location: Fouts Springs Recreation Area, Georgetown Ranger District, Mendocino National Forest, Colusa County, California.

Project Description: The Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, proposes to replace the existing potable water delivery system at the Fouts Springs Recreation Area. The water system is currently shut down by order of the State Regional Water Quality Control Board because the system had routinely tested positive for non-fecal coliform. The project would replace the existing system by installing a new vertical well or redrilling the existing horizontal well. Depending on which alternative is chosen the project could involve installation of above ground water storage tanks and above or below ground electrical lines and installation of new water transmission pipelines. The project would also extend water service to the South Fork and Mill Creek campground areas, as well as implement invasive weed control in the recreation area.

The project includes the following:

1. Option 1: Redrilling of the existing horizontal well or drilling a new vertical well at the existing well location. A well (horizontal or vertical) at the existing horizontal well location would involve retrofitting all other existing water transmission facilities including the existing underground water storage tanks and replacement of transmission pipelines.
2. Option 2: Drilling a new vertical well at a new location. Drilling of a new vertical well at a new location would involve installation of a pump house with a cinder block enclosure around the pump, a new chlorination building (if chlorination is required), above ground water storage tanks, electrical connections, and new transmission pipelines.
3. Both Options 1 and 2 include the extension of water service to the South Fork and Mill Creek campgrounds.
4. Both Options 1 and 2 also include the implementation of invasive weed control.

The project would be funded in part via the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program, which is managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), OHMVR Division. The OHMVR Division would be approving funding for the project and has determined the project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CDPR, OHMVR Division, is the Lead Agency under CEQA and has prepared an Initial Study and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) finding the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

Project Applicant: **Mendocino National Forest**
 825 N. Humboldt Avenue
 Willows, CA 95988

Comment Period: In accordance with CEQA, the OHMVR Division is soliciting public and agency comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis described in the IS/MND for the project. The comment period begins on November 23, 2009, and ends on December 22, 2009, at 5 p.m. No public meeting will be held. The OHMVR Division shall consider the IS and

all written comments received by the close of the comment period prior to deciding whether to adopt the MND and approve the project.

Document Availability:

The IS/MND and all documents referenced therein are available for the 30-calendar day review and comment period. During the review period, copies of the IS/MND and all documents will be available for review at the following locations during normal business hours:

- Mendocino National Forest
825 N. Humboldt Avenue
Willows, CA 95988
Contact – Thomas Contreras, Forest Supervisor
Phone – (530) 934-3316
- CDPR, OHMVR Division
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816
Contact – Meriko Hoshida
Phone – (916) 323-0954

How to Comment: Interested parties may provide written comments on the IS/MND, which must be **received** by CDPR no later than 5 p.m. on December 22, 2009. Written comments on the IS/MND may be provided by email to mhoshida@parks.ca.gov or be sent via fax or U.S. mail to the following address/fax number:

Attn: Meriko Hoshida
CDPR, OHMVR Division
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 323-0954 (phone)
(916) 324-1610 (fax)