

Public Notice of Intent

To use Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in lieu of a Negative Declaration for the Tahoe National Forest, Robinson Flat to China Wall Connector Trail Project

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR Division)

Project Location: Tahoe National Forest, American River Ranger District: located near Foresthill, CA, Placer County, adjacent to Foresthill Divide Road.

Project Description: The OHMVR Division proposes to award grant funds to the Tahoe National Forest, American River Ranger District, for development of the Robinson Flat to China Wall Connector Trail. The approximately 24-mile trail would connect the Robinson Flat campground area to Humbug Loop 5 Trail of the China Wall motorized trail system and provide access to the Sugar Pine OHV Area. See CEQA documentation for details.

Use of EA/FONSI as CEQA Document: CEQA encourages state agencies to use a FONSI prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), rather than preparing a new CEQA document, when the FONSI has been prepared before a Negative Declaration would otherwise be completed for the project and the FONSI complies with the CEQA Guidelines (CEQA Guidelines § 15221). Consistent with CEQA Guidelines sections 15221 and 15063(a)(2), the OHMVR Division has determined that the FONSI, with the EA analysis, comply with the provisions of the CEQA guidelines for preparation of a negative declaration. Supplemental environmental information is provided to address the CEQA Environmental Checklist subjects that were not addressed in the EA/FONSI. This content meets the CEQA requirements for an Initial Study specified in CEQA Guideline Section 15063(d). The CEQA Environmental Checklist discussion demonstrates that no potentially significant environmental impacts other than those described in the EA/FONSI would occur as a result of this project, and no new mitigation would be required.

This Notice is provided by the OHMVR Division, lead agency under CEQA, for the proposed Robinson Flat to China Wall Connector Trail project. The OHMVR Division intends to use the FONSI in lieu of preparing its own Negative Declaration to provide OHV grant funds to the Tahoe National Forest for development of the project. The EA, together with the supplemental CEQA Environmental Checklist documentation, comprises the Initial Study used by the OHMVR Division to evaluate the potential for the project to have significant effects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a)(2).

Review Period: The public comment period begins on April 30, 2021, and ends on June 1, 2021, at 5 p.m. No public meeting will be held.

Document Availability: The Initial Study and FONSI can be viewed and downloaded from the OHMVR Division's website at ohv.parks.ca.gov, on the CEQA/EIR Notices link. The Initial Study and FONSI is also available at the following location during normal business hours: CDPR OHMVR Division, 1725 23rd Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95816. Contact Sixto Fernandez, (916) 324-1572.

How to Comment: Interested parties may provide written comments on the Initial Study and FONSI, which must be **received** by CDPR no later than 5 p.m. on June 1, 2021. Written comments on the Initial Study and FONSI may be provided by email to Sixto.fernandez@parks.ca.gov or sent via U.S. mail to the attention of Sixto Fernandez, Grants Program Manager, at the above address.