DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors  
BY: Dianne Fritz  
PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign a letter to the United States Forest Service regarding extending the deadline for completing the draft analysis of the Sierra National Forest Motorized Travel Management.

Please see draft letter for additional information.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board routinely authorizes the Chairman of the Board to sign letters on issues that impact the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Make amendments to the draft letter and authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the letter as amended. Do not authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the letter. Individual Board members may write their own letters regarding this issue.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No  Current FY Cost: $  
Budgeted in Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded  
Amount in Budget: $  
Additional Funding Needed: $  
Source:  
Internal Transfer  
Unanticipated Revenue  
Transfer Between Funds  
Contingency  
( ) General ( ) Other

Annual Recurring Cost: $  
List Attachments, number pages consecutively  
Draft Letter

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.:  
Ord. No.  
Vote - Ayes:  
Noes:  
Absent:  
Approved  
( ) Minute Order Attached  ( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.
Date:  
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
County of Mariposa, State of California  
By:  
Deputy

COUNTRY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:
( ) Requested Action Recommended  
( ) No Opinion  
Comments:

CAO:  
Revised Dec. 2002
March 25, 2008

Abigail R. Kimbell, Chief
United States Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, District of Columbia 20250

RE: Sierra National Forest Motorized Travel Management

Dear Chief Kimball:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors urges you to extend the timeframe for completing the draft analysis of the areas of use for authorized routes, trails, and tracks in the Sierra National Forest. The current deadline for the completion of the draft analysis for the Sierra National Forest is April 2008.

To date only approximately twenty-percent of the 3,000 areas of use have been evaluated and a large portion of the remaining unevaluated areas of use are still covered with snow thus virtually stopping analysis from occurring. Of critical importance is that current guidelines require that areas of use not completely analyzed and approved will be closed to the public until such time that the analysis can be conducted. If enforced, these guidelines will in effect be closing a large portion of the forest that was previously available to the public.

We request that the timeline for the completion of the draft analysis be extended to December 2010 to allow the United States Forest Service sufficient time to properly and thoroughly complete the detailed analysis. Additionally, we request that while this process is being completed that the Sierra National Forest remains open as usual with the stipulation that no cross country motorized travel or new areas of use be allowed.
Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

LYLE TURPIN
Chairman

LT/mbh

cc: United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
    United States Senator Barbara Boxer
    Congress Member George Radanovich
    Randy Moore, Regional Forester, United States Forest Service
    Edward Cole, Forest Supervisor, Sierra National Forest
    Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Department of Conservation