

# Agenda

## County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

All members of the public are encouraged to participate in the discussion of any items on the Agenda. Anyone wishing to speak, please obtain a card from the Board Clerk and indicate each item you would like to discuss. Return the completed card to the Board Clerk before the Board considers the item (s) upon which you wish to speak. You will be allowed to speak about each item before the Board takes action on it.

Any member of the public may also make comments during the scheduled "Public Comment" period on this agenda concerning any subject related to the Board of Supervisors or County Government. No card needs to be submitted in order to speak during the "Public Comment" period.

**Public Notices:** (1) In Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting please contact the Clerk of the Board at (760) 878-0373. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II). Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Should you because of a disability require appropriate alternative formatting of this agenda, please notify the Clerk of the Board 72 hours prior to the meeting to enable the County to make the agenda available in a reasonable alternative format. (Government Code Section 54954.2). (2) If a writing, that is a public record relating to an agenda item for an open session of a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, is distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, the writing shall be available for public inspection at the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 224 N. Edwards, Independence, California and is available per Government Code § 54957.5(b)(1).

**Note:** Historically the Board does break for lunch, the timing of a lunch break is made at the discretion of the Chairperson and at the Board's convenience.

**Special Meeting  
August 5, 2013  
Big Pine Town Hall  
183 Dewey Street  
Big Pine, California  
6:00 p.m.**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
2. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
3. **PLANNING** – Request Board take public input regarding the Topic Papers being prepared to guide the development of a new Inyo National Forest Management Plan. The Topic Papers are critical at this juncture because they will provide the baseline for developing the Plan. The Topic Papers are being developed by a Forest Service inter-disciplinary team addressing many of the Forest issues important to residents and businesses of the County, including natural resources, system drivers and stressors, social/cultural/economic conditions, scenic resources, mineral resources, land status ownership and use, access, multiple uses, and many others.

In order to best represent the interests of the County, it is important for the Board of Supervisors to gather the public's input on the Topic Papers as these topics relate to Inyo County residents and businesses, particularly those addressing multiple uses, biological resources, access, infrastructure and services, and socioeconomics.



**AGENDA REQUEST FORM**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF INYO

For Clerk's Use Only:  
AGENDA NUMBER

- Consent     Departmental     Correspondence Action     Public Hearing  
 Scheduled Time for     Closed Session     Informational

**FROM:** Inyo County Planning Department

**FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF:** August 5, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Inyo National Forest Plan Update/Revision – Big Pine Public Meeting

**RECOMMENDATION:** Conduct a public meeting regarding the Inyo National Forest Plan Update/Revision and draft Topic Papers and solicit public input to focus the County's input regarding the draft Topic Papers to the Forest Service.

**SUMMARY DISCUSSION:** The Inyo National Forest (INF) is working on updating its Forest Plan.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Forest Service completed an update to the Forest Planning Rule in 2012. The County of Inyo participated extensively in developing the rule; input from the County was incorporated into the rule, including a requirement that the Forest Service coordinate with local government.

The Inyo National Forest has been selected as one of the first of eight forests nation-wide to be an early adopter of the new Rule; three of the "early adopters" are in Forest Service Region 5 in California – the Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests. The Plan Update will consist of various phases, beginning with an Assessment, followed by development of the Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Upon approval, the INF will monitor Plan implementation and if needed amend, update, and revise the Plan in a continuous cycle.

The INF's existing Plan was approved in 1988 and includes numerous amendments, errata, and other modifications; due to its age and format, it is anticipated that a substantial revision and reformat will be necessary. Forest Service staff expect that the updated Plan will be more policy-oriented than the existing Plan, providing broad policy guidance for management of the Forest, but less physical prescription for specific areas.

A team approach between the local and Region 5 Forest Service offices is being undertaken to provide in-house technical expertise to the local office and prepare the Plan Update/Revision. A core team in the regional office has been assembled to provide oversight, direction, and assistance for the forests in Region 5, including an economist, ecologist, social scientist, and a technical editor. A broad interdisciplinary team has been assembled in the INF office to provide local expertise.

The Plan Update is in the early assessment phase; the INF's interdisciplinary team prepared draft Topic Papers to be considered by the regional team, which is preparing the Assessment. The draft Topic Papers are currently in public review, and comments are due September 1. The regional team will then prepare a draft Assessment, for which public review is anticipated in October. The team will then incorporate public comment into a final Assessment later in the year. Following phases include evaluation of the need for

<sup>1</sup> Refer to <http://inyoplanning.org/InyoNationalForest.htm> for more information about the County's participation in the Plan Update/Revision, including links to the Forest Service's relevant online references.

change in 2014, development of the Plan Update and EIS later in 2014 and 2015, and final approval in 2016.

The Board of Supervisors previously identified priorities for the County in the Update, which are attached. In order to focus the County's input to the Forest Service regarding the Topic Papers, the Board is conducting public meetings in Bishop, Big Pine, and Lone Pine. The Board will utilize the public input received during these meetings when crafting its correspondence regarding the draft Topic Papers to the Forest Service.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:** Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service; Mono, Fresno, Madera, and Tuolumne counties; other interested persons and organizations.

**FINANCING:** General fund resources are utilized to monitor planning work in the Forest. Resources for Willdan's assistance with the effort are funded by operating transfer from the Geothermal Royalties fund.

<b>APPROVALS</b>	
COUNTY COUNSEL:	AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS AND ORDINANCES AND CLOSED SESSION AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by county counsel prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
AUDITOR/CONTROLLER:	ACCOUNTING/FINANCE AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the auditor-controller prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR:	PERSONNEL AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the director of personnel services prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>

**DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE:**  
(Not to be signed until all approvals are received)

 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7-26-13

Attachment: Previous Board Correspondence Regarding the County's Priorities for the Plan Update



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

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*Assistant Clerk of the Board*

June 19, 2012

Mr. Ed Armenta, Supervisor  
Inyo National Forest  
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200  
Bishop, CA 93514

**Re: Inyo National Forest Plan Update/Revision**

Dear Supervisor Armenta:

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, thank you for attending our workshop on April 17 to discuss the impending Inyo National Forest Plan Update/Revision. As you know, we are more than just a stakeholder in the planning process; we represent the people of Inyo County through a democratic process, and we attempt to balance the viewpoints of all of our constituents and sift through the vast amount of materials necessary to participate in planning for the Inyo National Forest. Below, based on our discussion and with the input of our Natural Resource Advisory Committee, are our priorities for the Update/Revision.

- **Access** – enhanced to accommodate vehicular use, packing, hunting, hiking, and other recreational opportunities, as well as mining and other uses of the Forest. Mitigation opportunities for potential environmental impacts resulting from increased access should be identified and implemented.
  - Roads and trails should be protected and expanded to provide access for recreation and exploration for natural resources and other uses of the Forest, including grazing, mining, and the activities of native peoples (such as gathering).
  - Roadless Areas should be identified for removal as they are no longer relevant or roadless.
  - Conflicts between biological resources and human access should be identified and planned for.
- **Vibrant Economy** – the Plan should contribute substantially to the local economy due to the impact of the Forest on the County's culture and fiscal health, and should not result in significant socioeconomic impacts.
  - Grazing, Mining, Renewable Energy Production, and other Uses – the Plan should support and encourage consumptive and sustainable uses of the Forest to contribute to the County's economy and culture.
  - Roads and trails should be protected and expanded to provide access for recreation and exploration for natural resources. This type of recreation is an important economic driver for the County.
  - Mitigation Bank – opportunities to shift land acquisition for mitigation of environmental impacts to restoration of degraded wilderness areas should be incorporated into the Plan to accommodate mitigation of human development elsewhere in the County.
- **Local Culture** – the Plan should support and enhance the culture of local communities to the extent social and cultural issues revolve around the forest.

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- Public Safety – access and accommodation for public safety purposes should be of paramount concern in the Plan, including for law enforcement (such as eradicating illegal drug production), fire management and suppression, and search and rescue.
- Provide access to the Forest for gathering activities, prospecting, sightseeing, exploration, and camping.
- Provide a continuing voice to the people living around the forest through their local government representatives.

The Inyo National Forest is of vital importance to Inyo County, and we look forward to working with you and your team over the coming years to craft a locally sustainable Plan that contributes positively to our society and culture. Our General Plan Government Element provides more detailed guidance regarding the County's priorities, and we encourage you to refer to it and on the County's website at [http://inyoplanning.org/general\\_plan/goals.htm](http://inyoplanning.org/general_plan/goals.htm).

If you have any questions, please contact the County's Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, at (760) 878-0292 or [kcarunchio@inyocounty.us](mailto:kcarunchio@inyocounty.us). Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Marty Fortney, Chairperson  
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

cc: Board of Supervisors  
Kevin Carunchio, CAO  
Randy Keller, County Counsel  
Joshua Hart, Planning Director  
Doug Wilson, Willdan  
Inyo County Natural Resource Advisory Committee  
Regional Council of Rural Counties  
California State Association of Counties  
National Association of Counties  
Secretary Vilsak, USDA  
Randy Moore, Pacific Southwest Regional Forester, USFS  
Chief Tidwell, USFS  
Susan Joyce, USFS  
Sustainable Forest Action Coalition