

Duane "HAP" Hazard
Mono County Supervisor
District Two
P.O. Box 554
Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546
(760) 935-4999



*Mono County
Courthouse*

Daniel Morris
Natural Resource Specialist - General Recreation
Humboldt - Toiyabe National Forest

Daniel,

Please let this letter serve as my comments on the **2010/11 Ground Operations Grant**. As a member of the Mono County Board of Supervisors I was involved with the negotiations that brought forth the 2005 Local "Hoover Agreement". This agreement was supported with a 5-0 vote of our board in August of 2005. Our work involved all sides of the wilderness/OSV issues involving the Proposed Hoover Wilderness. This agreement eventually moved from our board to the **Eastern Sierra and San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act, H.R.6156**, sponsored by Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon and Senator Barbara Boxer.

This act was signed by the President and established a legal resolution to the proposed Hoover Wilderness Area that had set unresolved for decades. It also created the first ever congressionally dedicated winter recreation area for OSV. There are 11,000 acres for snowmobile use which will bring much needed tourism to the community of Bridgeport in northern Mono County. With this legal resolution comes a new and great responsibility to manage and operate what is now known as the "Bridgeport Winter Recreational Area" or BWRA.

The **Ground Operational** grant requested would address both the summer and winter needs of the Toiyabe National Forest for their on the ground operational needs. Further it request funding to properly begin the operations of the newly formed BWRA. This is important to help the new users of this recreational area to get off to a positive start.

I would request full funding of this grant (as requested) to prevent the Toiyabe Forest Service staff from being put into the position to have to divide allocated funds between their current operational needs and the newly formed BWRA.

Many hours of work and staff time have gone into gaining the trust of all the parties involved in both the Local Hoover Agreement and the support of H.R. 6156. Both of these legislative acts and the current BWRA management plan being developed by the Toiyabe N.F. will establish exactly how this area will share OSV use and protect the newly established Wilderness area. Signage, kiosks, maps, user educational efforts, enforcement, and public outreach are all part of a successful start up program.

I, and my constituents, strongly support the funding and goals as outlined in this Grant Request.

Thank You for your consideration of this application,

Duane "Hap" Hazard
Mono County Supervisor
District 2