

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, Cal-Ida 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, Yuba River Ranger District: located near Downieville, CA, Sierra County, just north of Highway 49.

Project Description: The OHMVR Division proposes to award grant funds to the Tahoe National Forest, Yuba River Ranger District, for the development of the Cal-Ida Multi-Use OHV Trail Project. The grant-funded project would combine a number of user-created trails into the 20-mile trail system. One mile of existing trail segments would be realigned to provide for a sustainable trail system, address erosion concerns, and improve trail user experience. Trail signs would be installed or replaced as needed. Trail construction would entail brush removal with chainsaws and hand tools and possible use of a small mini-excavator (track width 35 inches) and a Sutter 300 trail dozer (track width 29 inches) to create a trail pad.

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). The OHMVR Division has determined that the EA describes the project; environmental setting; potential environmental effects; and incorporation of design measures, Management Requirements, and BMPs to avoid significant impacts. This content meets the CEQA requirements for an Initial Study specified in CEQA Guideline Section 15063(d). Supplemental environmental information is provided to address the CEQA Environmental Checklist subjects that were not addressed in the EA/FONSI. The CEQA Environmental Checklist discussion demonstrates that no significant environmental impacts other than those described in the EA/FONSI would occur as a result of this project.

This Notice is provided by the OHMVR Division, lead agency under CEQA, for the proposed action. 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 the Cal-Ida Trail 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 4, 2018, and ends on May 7, 2018, 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 Matt Whamond at (916) 322-2651 or Fax (916) 324-1610.

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 May 7, 2018. Written comments on the Initial Study and FONSI may be provided by email to Matt.Whamond@parks.ca.gov or sent via U.S. mail or fax to the attention of Matt Whamond, Grant Administrator at the above address/fax number.