

File Code: 2300/2350-5

Date: November 15, 2007

Interested Party:

Enclosed is a draft strategy and task list for management of the High Lake OHV Area (HLOHVA) located on the Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest. The High Lakes OHV Area is designated as a combination of Semi Primitive Non-Motorized and Semi Primitive Motorized in the Lassen National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. There is currently no proposal to change the land management status for HLOHVA in future Plan revisions.

SPM and SPNM guidelines state that the social setting for this designation should be "...low to moderate frequency contact with other parties." SPM specifications also state that "areas [are] essentially undisturbed except for the presence of four-wheel drive roads and trails."

Currently the management objectives prescribed for Semi Primitive Motorized and Non-Motorized areas are not being met. Indirect management techniques generally attributed to primitive areas have not proven effective at High Lakes. Nearly all use areas in the High Lakes are user created and many are in poor locations. In addition, high use, coupled with limited available mileage and camp sites have led to unacceptable resource issues throughout the more popular areas of the HLOHVA. Problems that are occurring in the area include, but are not limited to; high number of sites concentrated on lake shores, site expansion (along with associated loss of vegetation), erosion, trail degradation, sanitation, litter, and other impacts related to heritage resources.

The overall goal of this strategy is to provide an acceptable level of user satisfaction **and OHV experiences** while mitigating natural and cultural resource impacts within the High Lakes OHV Area. Your feedback on these draft documents will assist us as we develop proposed actions that will be carried forward into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for decision and implementation.

Submit your written comments to David C. Erwin, District Recreation Officer at P.O. Box 767, Chester, California 96020 by January 15, 2008.

Sincerely,

  
ALFRED G. VAZQUEZ  
District Ranger

