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I appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the Inyo County Planning Grant preliminary application with the California Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation division. The Forest supports the concept of having as high quality data about public lands and recreational opportunities as possible. As yet, the Forest has not been contacted about this effort, so I have some uncertainty of the scope, scale and parameters for the data collection on National Forest System land, and the expectation for how data will be used in the future.

The Forest has just completed an extensive analysis of the motorized transportation system on Forest lands, which included a multi-year data collection effort funded primarily with State of California Trust Funds. These comprehensive data, which include much route information on adjacent agency and private lands, were collected between 2003 and 2005; and this effort was followed by a year of public involvement to identify gaps, of which few were found. The Forest has already shared these data with Inyo County, and is happy to work with the County to ensure that all necessary metadata is available.

I ask that the County coordinates these efforts closely with my staff. The Forest can offer ideas and experience with key data attributes for GPS/GIS data management, as well as avoid duplication or unintentional conflicts with Forest Travel Management regulations. All motorized vehicles are required to stay on designated roads and motorized trails, unless specifically authorized by permit. I want to work with you to ensure that motorized travel for data collection is done in an appropriate manner.

If the County is successful in obtaining funding through this grant, I would like Forest and County staff to meet soon after the award to ensure the success of this effort. I support having good information upon which we can base informed land management decisions, and am happy to work with you in furthering this goal.

Sincerely,



JON C. REGELBRUGGE
Acting Forest Supervisor

