Public Notice of Intent

To use Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in lieu of a Negative Declaration for the Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Trails Project Phase 2

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency: Plumas County (County Supervisor JD Moore)

Project Location: Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District: located near Quincy, CA, Plumas County, adjacent to HWY 70.

Project Description: Plumas County proposes to construct approximately 37 miles of multi-use trail from Oakland Camp to connect with the recreation community of Mount Hough. The trail would be constructed to Trail Development Class 3 (moderate level of development) standards. The trail would be designed and managed for use by single-track motorized vehicles. Standard width for the trail would be 24", with the trail widening on steep sidehills and other locations as necessary to promote safety and resource protection issues. Trail grade would average fewer than 10 percent with maximum constructed grades not to exceed 15 percent. One bridge will be constructed crossing Gilson Creek. See CEQA documentation for details.

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). Consistent with CEQA Guidelines sections 15221 and 15063(a)(2), Plumas County has determined that the FONSI, with the Mount Hough- South Park Proposed Trail System Project (Phase I) EA analysis, comply with the provisions of the CEQA guidelines for preparation of a negative declaration. Plumas County has determined that the Phase I EA fully describes the Mount Hough Trails Phase 2 Construction Project geographic area, environmental setting, potential environmental effects, and incorporation of Trail Construction Standards and Management Requirements to avoid significant impacts. Supplemental environmental information is provided to address the CEQA Environmental Checklist subjects that were not addressed in the Mount Hough- South Park Proposed Trail System Project (Phase I) EA/FONSI. This content meets the CEQA requirements for an Initial Study (IS) specified in CEQA Guideline Section 15063(d). The CEQA Environmental Checklist discussion demonstrates that no potentially significant environmental impacts other than those described in the EA/FONSI would occur as a result of this project, and no new mitigation would be required.

This Notice is provided by Plumas County, lead agency under CEQA, for the proposed Mt. Hough Trail Project Phase 2 Construction Project. Plumas County intends to use the FONSI in lieu of preparing its own Negative Declaration to provide OHV grant funds to the Plumas National Forest for development of the project. The EA, together with the supplemental CEQA Environmental Checklist documentation, comprises the Initial Study used by Plumas County 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 February 14, 2022, and ends on March 16, 2022, at 5 p.m. No public meeting will be held.

Document Availability: The IS and the FONSI can be viewed and downloaded from the Plumas County Public Document and CEQA Posting website at: https://plumascounty.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=68 and at the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) website at https://sierratrails.org/.

How to Comment: Interested parties may provide written comments on the IS, which must be **received** by CDPR no later than 5 p.m. on March 16, 2022. Written comments on the IS may be provided by email to mandy@sierratrails.org or sent via U.S. mail to the attention of Mandy Beatty, SBTS Grants Program Manager, 550 Crescent Street, Quincy, CA 95971.