

INYO COUNTY

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Notice of Availability

Inyo County Adventure Trails Pilot Program Combined-Use Procedures Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

Assembly Bill 628 made revisions to the California Vehicle Code establishing a pilot project allowing Inyo County to designate certain County highways (streets and roads) as combined-use routes. The combined use routes allow the use of County streets and roads by Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV). This document is intended to apply to the potential combined-use designation of any County maintained roadway. In addition, Assembly Bill 628 requires the County to adopt procedures to implement Assembly Bill 628. This environmental document is for the future designation of combined-use routes and for the adoption of procedures to implement Assembly Bill 628. The implementation procedures and Assembly Bill are attached to, and are a part of, this document.

Assembly Bill 628 authorizes the County of Inyo to establish a pilot project to designate combined-use highways on unincorporated county roads for no more than 10 miles. The combined-use highways can be used to link existing off-highway motor vehicle trails and trailheads on federal Bureau of Land Management or United States Forest Service lands in order to provide a unified linkage of trail systems for off-highway motor vehicles. Other goals for the project are to preserve traffic safety, improve natural resource protection, reduce off-highway vehicle trespass on private land, and minimize impacts on county residents. The provisions of AB 628 sunset January 1, 2017.

This environmental document is intended to cover implementation of the pilot project system-wide. The designation of each roadway segment will require action by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors at a public hearing. Notice of the proposed Board of Supervisors action will be mailed to property owners adjacent to the proposed combined-use routes, included any routes located in residential areas. If the subsequent consideration of a combined-use route reveals a potentially significant environmental impact that is not included herein, that combined-use segment will require a separate environmental evaluation as required by CEQA.

The Draft MND finds that although the proposed project could initially have a significant effect on the environment, mitigations have been incorporated into the project to avoid or reduce impacts to a point where no significant effects will occur. The Initial Study and Draft MND and the Draft Adventure Trails Pilot Program Procedures can be viewed at the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission website at <http://www.involtc.org/docs.html> or in person at the Public Works Department office at the Courthouse Annex Building at 168 North Edwards Street in Independence.

The 30-day public comment period for the Draft MND begins on January 19, 2012 and ends on February 18, 2012. A public hearing to consider recommending approval of the environmental document to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors has been scheduled for the Inyo County Planning Commission meeting Wednesday, March 28, 2012. The meeting will begin and is tentatively scheduled to be held at **10:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Room at the Inyo County Administrative Center at 224 North Edwards Street in Independence, CA**. All interested persons are encouraged to attend and be heard.