

ESRC Recreation Strategy Framework
November 12, 2014

How To Use This Document:

This framework provides a draft summary of input offered by community members to the ESRC Recreation Strategy. The summary is provided as a matrix with ESRC Values (1st column) as the organizing principles together with Inyo National Forest planning elements (Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines). The Desired Conditions were derived from public input supplied at the ESRC Gateway Community meetings held October 28 and 30.

For each Desired Condition members of the public were asked to outline Objectives, Standards, and corresponding Guidelines during the ESRC meeting conducted Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at Cerro Coso Community College in Bishop. Some Desired Conditions (shaded gray) were not addressed during that meeting due to time constraints. This document should be treated as a Draft subject to additional input planned for another public meeting in January 2015.

ESRC Recreation Lens (Values)	Desired Conditions	Objectives	Standards	Guidelines
Stewardship and Partnership	1. Community Steward Programs	Establish community financed interpretive programs to educate public about ecology, history, LNT, culture of an area	Assign appropriate staff person to facilitate agreements with INF to provide volunteers	Interpretive staff either paid or provided by volunteers
	2. Forest Service collaboration with community groups	-INF will actively collaborate with community groups to address management and recreation goals -INF should also collaborate with natives as to management and location of sacred land and burial sites	Partnerships should include a broad variety of groups to represent the diversity of uses and interests on the forest	The INF and community groups will have established partnership structures to facilitate communication
	3. Repair trails and bridges with community stewardship as appropriate	Engage more partners for front country and backcountry trail repair and maintenance by doubling MOU's in the next 5 years	Create outreach program to engage partners – clearly communicate project guidelines	Identify and publish/ promote projects that could be implemented by partners

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	4. Stewardship opportunities for visitors and residents	-Expand on the ground stewardship capacity through establishment of local stewardship groups in each "gateway community" -Provide 20 stewardship projects for out of town groups per year	Ensure projects occur in each community and addresses more than one "use"	-Streamline and prioritize facilitation of local and regional groups stewardship project requests -Where possible provide free or low cost facilities (i.e. campground) for stewardship groups
	5. Improve partnerships and their ability to work on forest	INF hires or designates a coordinator specifically to work with partnership groups	INF being proactive in seeking out partnership objectives	Develop with partners a volunteer stewardship corp
	6. Improve work with permitted outfitters to monitor and manage			
	7. Establish training of volunteers throughout region and across all activities			
	8. Volunteer- stewardship and interpretation	Within 2 years of plan implementation fund a staff a volunteer coordinator (VC)	VC will develop a collaborative volunteer strategy that supports stewardship and interpretive plan components	-Should incorporate all gateway communities -Facilitate diverse user groups to identify "good fits" for stewardship and interpretive programs/ projects
	9. Resolve user conflicts through community capacity			
Diverse Use and Experiences	1. Spring skiing access up Tioga Road			
	2. Keep open riding areas for OHV-OSV not restricted to trails a. Create OHV OSV access (back to town) b. Add OHV/Trail accesses	-Create a comprehensive plan for motorized (OHV & OSV) access to all communities/ portals by 2019 -Maintain open riding for OSV recreation wherever possible	-Must avoid sensitive habitat, wetlands, riparian areas -Must work within existing guidelines and regulations	-Should have sufficient community and user group input -Should be groom able in winter and provide for multiple types of OHV recreation -Should be compatible with other uses

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	3. Activity viewing arbor glyphs and other cultural representation one place (of many) Lundy Canyon			
	4. Winter use of mountain bikes on groomed trails	Fat biking permitted on forest managed groomed trails within 2 years (non-ski area/ concessions)	Forest rule updated to allow fat biking and grooming bike specific trails	Promotion of wayfinding and multi-use etiquette
	5. Expand quiet cross country ski opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Keep and expand cross country ski trails at Obsidian Dome b. Groomed trails for cross country c. Mono craters XC skiing (@120 closure) 	Create a comprehensive winter non-motorized recreation plan on the Mammoth/ Mono Ranger District by 2019 including Obsidian Dome and Mono Craters	Must follow existing plans and regulations	-Should connect to communities -Should identify partners/ funding sources -Should be compatible with other uses
	6. Allow concerts, special events, festivals at Shady Rest Park	By 2020 Shady Rest Park will be Mammoth's premiere year-round venue for outdoor special events, festivals, concerts, and sporting tourneys. It has lights, improved infrastructure, parking and numerous signed access points allowing everyone to enter the forest	-Recognize Shady Rest Park as a one of a kind urban park set on Federal land and move willingly into the future -Mitigate the increased use -Partner with the Town of Mammoth Lakes and update MOU's to help manage this park "for the greater good"	-Be a good neighbor (invite campers to enjoy the park with lights) -Brag to the rest of the country how Mammoth has a skate park on Federal land -Impose reasonable "lights out" standards during busy summer evenings -Restrict more above grade geothermal pipes
	7. Add more mountain biking trails (purpose built regional trails system) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Build mountain bike trail network in June Mountain permit area 	Organize trails stakeholders to inventory existing trails and plan future trails within 5 years	Trail maintenance priorities/ needs identified and resources assigned (stewardship partners organized and engaged as needed)	Consider all trail user needs – high quality user experience (maps, signs, skills progression, enforcement of compatible uses)
	8. Expand Fishing Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Add fishing, canoe, alpine skiing, kayak, SUP at Saddlebag b. Add fishing at Corning Ranch 			

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	9. Integration of Inyo County multi-modal planning into Forest Planning			
	10. Birding and wildlife viewing			
	11. Keep Dispersed Camping (universal)			
	12. Ensure enough flexibility in the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) to account for current, new, and emerging uses and site specific management	Conduct regular user surveys by engaging diverse community partners and recreation groups to quantify uses amount and types – recommend every 5 years – must look beyond INF Visitor Centers	Upgrade ROS as new uses emerge – Allow for site specific management and community engagement in maintenance, development, and management – Minimum 5 year cycle to account for new use	-Use regular user group outreach -promote partner stewardship of recreation resources -keep a positive conversation open with users -Build flexibility into the ROS
	13. Provide for existing grazing activities and open historic grazing lands	Maintain existing grazing rights through the planning period and open 5% until there is no more demand	Areas to be grazed and opened shall be evaluated and the prime areas shall be prioritized for opening	Monitor grazing activities for any potential resource damage and identify mitigation to address such issues
Resource Protection	1. Protect Scenic, Ecological and Recreational Values as Scenic Areas			
	2. Protect streams and wetlands and wilderness a. Establish better standards to protect streams and meadows b. Restoration of streams science based standards to maintain ecologically healthy landscapes	-Restore stocked streams, lakes, and work with other agencies as the state that gives out stocking permits; Establish baseline to maintain riparian ecosystems Develop standards within 5 years based on observation of effective and less effective means to accommodate recreation	Seasonal monitoring of stocked waterways and lakes to ensure ecological health and availability to all species Maintain and enhance recreational access while working to achieve desired conditions	Restore streams with native fish and ecological health for all the avian, mammal, amphibian, reptile species Experiment with recreational access to observe and improve means to achieve desired conditions

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	3. Improve protections for species that use riparian and meadow habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. East of Crowley Lake sage grouse viewing, PJ, and sage brush habitat restoration b. Maintain high quality sage grouse habitat in the Mono basin c. Enhance Rush Creek habitat for Willow Flycatcher and other riparian species d. Restore riparian areas to improve habitat 	Re-plant a lot more Native hard Wood trees like Pine, Sycamore, and Oak to create more shade for wildlife.		Note: Owens Valley has an over-abundance of cottonwood trees (this needs to change).
	4. Integrated new Alabama Hills designation			
	5. Improve protection of high mountain meadows	Desired conditions for meadows should be written for specific meadow typology based upon best available science To protect rare plant communities from impacts plant surveys will be conducted before permission is given for the desired use (impacts).	Work with agencies, universities, and community organizations (i.e. meadow experts) to develop a standard protocol for assessing meadow conditions Measured by completing reports and following recommendations.	If the Desired meadow Condition is not met place mandatory use restrictions (e.g. recreation, grazing, etc.) and implement restoration practices and mandatory protocols INF staff and volunteers can be used to facilitate the work
Communication Infrastructure	1. Establish reliable protocols for closing of public roads across all agencies	Contact all organizations by email, USPS, and posting on USPS public bulletin boards.		Check in with local natives as not to interfere with any traditions or sacred lands or burial sites.
	2. Common information systems across all jurisdictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish common nomenclature and graphic systems for recreation information b. Region wide info distribution using 			

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	technology c. Standardize Road #'s on maps			
	3. Modify maps to reflect winter recreation opportunity so "primitive" areas are accessible in winter too			
	4. Improve trail and system signage a. Provide experience and difficulty signage in advance b. Saddlebag lake area c. Note South Tufa fee area on highway 395 signage d. Improved signage / info around Shady Rest soft surface trails (uses, MTB interpretive) e. Improve interpretive and signage at Minaret Vista f. Add cultural sites (ranches, mines, Native American) to activity legend	<i>(This objective-standard-guideline addresses 4f)</i> To protect cultural resources which may be impacted by increased visitation surveys will be conducted by INF archeologists and crews.	Progress will be measured by completed reports recommendations for protection and closure of sensitive areas.	Funding needs to be provided to be in compliance with Federal and State laws and county ordinances.
	5. Better education to public on L-N-T (Leave No Trace)			
	6. Communication needs to be in languages besides English; Many visitors do not speak/read English well	Identify most common languages used and provide necessary information in handouts at trail-heads, campsites, etc. (e.g. Spanish, Vietnamese, etc.). Make English clear and concise as possible for other user groups.	Translate existing front country information signs, campsite information and safety information to the most commonly used languages other than English as determined by surveys and related data collection.	Expand to other languages or to translating handouts with cultural/ historical information as well. Also use international symbols.
	7. More public announcement for good behavior in NF such as Smokey bear Campaign			

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	8. Re-classify backcountry skiing under the XC ski family/logo so that the logos work			
	9. Improve Portal kiosk signage to include natural and cultural history info	Identify locations and themes, work with partners to develop content and install 10 kiosks per year forest wide; ensure at least 4 themes (e.g. history, natural history, LNT, etc.) addressed each year.	Prioritize installation/ repair of kiosks with ready funding and long term partners.	Restore and enhance existing signage before installing additional new signage at a given location.
	10. Designate official snow play areas such as near Obsidian dome			
Healthy and Sustainable	1. Manage and monitor wilderness areas with wilderness rangers	Have “circuit riding” wilderness rangers that visit every major drainage frequently – such as Bishop Creek, Big Pine Creek, Rock Creek, Mammoth Basin, Pine Creek. (Wilderness Ranger budget used for broader purposes than Whitney trail).	More Ranger presence	-Embody LNT -Enforce Bear rules -Teaching Wilderness Ethics
	2. Limit motorized impact open areas a. OHV damage in Mono Craters	Inyo county and Bishop Chamber working hard to promote more recreation and bring more tourists.	Work together to minimize duplicate efforts.	Agencies and groups collaborate to foster progress.
	3. General – Improve access to recycling on/in forest service land	Identify and prioritize high/ moderate use areas that lack recycling facilities.	Install paper, plastic, aluminum recycling containers (including propane recycling at campsites) in identified areas.	Expand to harder-to-reach areas.

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	4. More restroom facilities, trash pick-up, water for campers and RV'ers a. Rest rooms at Silver Lake and Rush Creek need maintaining b. Provide water at Grandview Campground c. Restroom facilities-June Lake Beach			
	5. Improve management of dispersed camping (fire, trash, etc.)			
	6. Work with the June Lake trails committee to make existing "non-legal" trails that connect the community to USFS trails Legal			
	7. Control amount of pack station horse traffic to better maintain trails a. Reduce equestrian impact on Rush Creek trail – trail is degraded b. Packers should remove horse poop from trails			
	8. Improve decaying infrastructure improve visitor experience a. Budget more money for Forest service	-Update the Recreation Facility Analysis (2007?) within 1 year of plan implementation. -Increase private sector investment by 5% per year throughout planning period.	-Prioritize high use and key access locations. Communicate with stakeholders the process for infrastructure improvements. -Require consideration of contracting out existing facilities/ programs and opening new areas and activities to private sector investment.	-Use the Recreation Facility Analysis to prioritize infrastructure improvements; build a timeline for facility repair and maintenance. -Consider incentives for the private sector to partner with non-profits and community organizations.
	10. Damaged streams need restoration to support fishing and habitat	Identify at-risk and degraded riparian habitats and restore 5% or 10 miles within 5 years of plan approval.	-Restoration needs to accommodate reasonable recreational access, native species diversity and high water quality.	Work with other agencies and conservation partners.

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			-Manage grazing to achieve healthy riparian habitats.	
	11. Management of congestion during periods of peak use at trailhead – ongoing			
	12. Mitigate loss of infrastructure trails, campground, roads, bridges, trail signs a. Maximize use of existing facilities regardless of season	-Inventory infrastructure conditions every 3 years -Restore or stabilize to prevent more than 10% loss per year -Improve 10% per year	Follow established maintenance standards	Prioritize by use; avoid peak use times and make maximum use of partnerships
Access for All	1. Improve accessibility in all INF areas (disabled access)	A reasonable percentage of front country recreation areas are developed or improved to provide safe and enjoyable experiences for users with disabilities	Accessible infrastructure must be tailored to accommodate physical, visual, and cognitive disabilities	The appropriate percentage of accessible opportunities should be determined with consideration for local conditions by zone
	2. Provide for personal firewood cutting			
	3. Build the washed out bridge above Convict Lake	Restore and maintain bridges to allow for full use of existing trails -Inventory potential projects -Complete stated percentage of projects each year	-Completed project/ structure should last for (___?) years -Take into account increased severe weather events	-Structure should conform aesthetically to surrounding area -Maybe structure can be partially dismantled (floods, etc.) -When appropriate will utilize non-forest service professionals and volunteers -Be willing to explore new techniques
	4. Change forest attitude regarding motorized recreation a. Open back up original OHV parking b. Allow for more motorized access and wheeled access (Snowmobile,	Open all original OHV parking by 2020 and 50% more trailheads for snowmobiles, dirt bikes, and mountain bikes and keeping them open	Open 90% of roads and trails every year up to and including 2020	Consider modifications to other standards to accommodate opening trails

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	dirt bike, mountain bike) on the Inyo trailheads – stop closing roads			
	5. Improve multi-modal connections between and within the gateway communities and public lands a. Integrated non-motorized trails system			
	6. More separation of motorized and self-powered – more separation of hikers and bicycles a. Separation of uses especially noise from solitude b. Lower Rock Creek Trail reduce potentially dangerous interactions between fast downhill bikers and fisher persons along the trail (fast bikes and slow people)	Identify and prioritize trail conflicts; Use community input to develop multi-use and dedicated use trail designations	Follow accepted policy and procedures	Consider desires of all users; resolve conflicts to the highest satisfaction possible
	7. More programs for children	Within the next few years increase collaboration with organizations (schools, non-profits, churches, etc.) to disseminate more information concerning recreation opportunities in our national forests including hiking, fishing, camping, climbing, etc. (make the opportunities known)	Maintain current budget allocated to “children’s programs” but refocus funding toward awareness campaigns to reach more diverse groups of children vs. typical users	Promote year round (not just summer/ spring) activities and use within budget constraints
	8. Improve winter snow use of trail system			
	9. Keep all uses open in Glass Mountains			
	10. Enhance OHV/ Equestrian access from Olancho to public lands			