

File Code: 1950
Date: June 13, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

The White Mountain Ranger District of the Inyo National Forest is requesting comments on a proposal to construct up to two permanent toilets near the Buttermilk climbing area. Over the last 20 years, there has been a steadily growing concentration of use around the Buttermilk area for dispersed camping and rock climbing. As a result, there is a need to protect resource values and address health and safety concerns associated with sanitation issues, while providing for recreation opportunities on forest land in the Buttermilk area.

Proposed Action

The Inyo National Forest proposes to construct up to two small vault toilets adjacent to the Buttermilk area of the Bishop Creek drainage. The toilet facilities would be designed and built on site, with a minimal profile (7') and footprint (8' x 8'), using rough-cut wood materials in order to blend into the surrounding environment. Each would be a single-seat unit with a 250-300 gallon capacity and have a short, native surface, wheelchair-accessible footpath leading to the toilet from an existing parking area.

The project area is located in the north half of Township 7 South, Range 31 East, Section 21 immediately north of National Forest System Road 7S01. The first proposed toilet location (Location 1 on map) is next to a small turn-around/parking area, near the "Birthday Boulders", along 7S04 just north of 7S01. The second proposed toilet location (Location 2 on map) would be east of the Buttermilks in a pull out on the north side of 7S01 that was originally a borrow pit. Installation of the first toilet would take place in late summer or early fall of 2011. The second toilet would only be installed if needed in the future.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The Proposed Action is now available for a 30-day public comment period pursuant to 36 CFR 215.5 and 36 CFR 220.4(e). This comment period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made. After the close of the comment period, the Forest Service will evaluate the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and any identified alternatives in an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this Proposed Action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice in *The Inyo Register*. The legal notice is expected to publish on or about June 17, 2011. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. **Only those who submit timely comments will have eligibility to appeal the final decision on this project under 36 CFR 215.** The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

If you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, or you feel you have issues (points of dispute, debate, or disagreement) regarding the potential effects of this proposal, please submit these comments to: Lesley Yen, White Mountain Ranger District, 798 North Main Street, Bishop, CA



93514. Comments may also be submitted by fax (Fax# 760-873-2563) or by hand delivery, during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, excluding holidays 8:00 am to 4:30 pm). Electronic comments, in acceptable formats [plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc)], may be submitted to lyen@fs.fed.us. Lesley Yen may also be contacted at 760-873-2524.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Names and addresses of those who comment will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action, and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit only anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

For more information about this project, please contact Lesley Yen, Natural Resource Specialist at 760-873-2524. Thank you for taking the time to read this information and for your continued interest in the management of National Forest System lands.

Sincerely,


DIANA PIETRASANTA
Deputy District Ranger

Enclosure: Map