

**February 12, 2019**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Item # 7a**

**CCD**

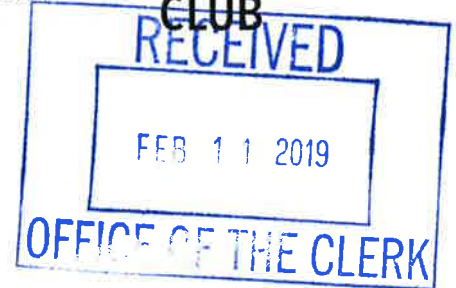
**Public Hearing**  
**General Plan**  
**Amendment 19-01**



Range of Light Group  
Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club  
Counties of Inyo and Mono, California  
P.O. Box 1973, Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546  
*RangeofLight.sc@gmail.com*



**SIERRA  
CLUB**



February 10, 2019

Mono County Board of Supervisors  
PO Box 715  
Bridgeport, California 93517

RE: Schedule for the Inyo National Forest Plan Revision Objection Resolution Process

Dear Honorable Members of the Mono County Board:

The Sierra Club, the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Range of Light Group, and our over 400 local members have a deep and longstanding interest in the protection of important wildlands and wildlife in the Eastern Sierra. We write you today on an issue that we and our members and allies have spent countless hours on over the last six years – the creation of the new Land Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest.

Home to important wildlife and plants, special places and exceptional recreation opportunities, the Inyo National Forest is, as you know, a centerpiece of our local economies and our rural, outdoors-focused, way of life. The achievement and protection of Mono's County's "Wild by Nature" motto and vision is dependent in many ways on the planning and management decisions that will be embodied in the final Forest Plan and the impact it will have on local lands and lives for decades to come.

In pursuit of a forest plan that will safeguard our region's wildlands, wildlife, water and recreation - for both current and future generations of Eastern Sierra residents and visitors alike – local Sierra Club members and staff have fully participated in the years-long planning process, the numerous public meetings and intensive comment opportunities it has entailed, and now in this final Objection process.

Along the way, we have been grateful to Mono County for its engagement as well, particularly and most recently for the County's decision to file an Objection to the final Inyo Forest Plan's: 1) failure to recommend any wilderness areas in Mono County – in spite of strong public support and the Board's formal comments during the planning process and 2) lack of recognition of the eligibility of key streams segments (including the lower reaches of Rush, Lee Vining, Parker, Walker and Mill Creeks ) in the Mono Basin for Wild and Scenic River protection.

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As the Board succinctly stated in its Objection letter to the Forest Service, "As approximately 65% of the lands in Mono County are managed by the Inyo National Forest (INF), the well-being of the County and its residents are inextricably connected to and affected by forest management." The Objection process – and most importantly the upcoming Objection Meeting on February 20 in Bishop – offer our last best chance to achieve a final forest plan that safeguards, among other key values, both Mono County's important federal wilderness quality lands and Wild and Scenic eligible streams.

We appreciate that the upcoming Objection Meeting is coming at a difficult and busy time for the County. Nevertheless, as the final forest plan could be – as the 1988 plan that it replaces was – in effect for a generation or more to come, we urge the County to be present, with both a Board and County planning staff representative, in Bishop on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

As a local government entity, Mono County has a unique voice and role to play in the future of the Inyo National Forest. We thank you for your many excellent efforts on behalf of our local lands and waters and encourage you to take this last participatory critical step in shaping the future of our national forest and its special wild places, including, at this critical juncture, the Glass Mountains, Dexter Canyon, Ansel Adams Addition and the Excelsior area.

Thank you,



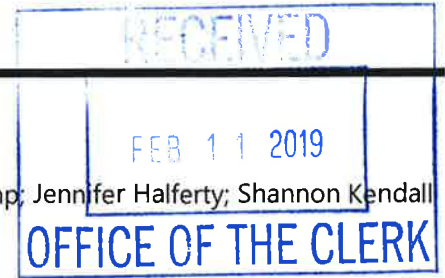
Lynn Boulton,  
Chair,  
Sierra Club Range of Light Group



Frances A. Hunt,  
Eastern Sierra Organizer,  
Sierra Club

**Shannon Kendall**

**From:** Ilene <monogreens@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2019 11:51 AM  
**To:** Bob Gardner; Stacy Corless; John Peters; Fred Stump; Jennifer Halferty; Shannon Kendall  
**Subject:** Re: BOS Letter of Objection re: Inyo Forest Plan



**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Board,

I understand that the Inyo National Forest will be holding a hearing on formal Objections filed in response to its final Forest Plan. I am writing to encourage the Mono County BOS to attend this meeting to represent in person your Objections to the shortcomings in the Plan. This is an important milestone in the collective effort to conserve our public lands and waters, so vitally important to Mono County.

Thank you very much for being outspoken on the environmental values in Mono County that the Forest Service should be acknowledging and safeguarding for future generations. Your leadership on this issue is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ilene Mandelbaum  
Lee Vining, Ca

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ilene <monogreens@aol.com>  
**To:** bgardner <bgardner@mono.ca.gov>; scorless <scorless@mono.ca.gov>; jpeters <jpeters@mono.ca.gov>; fstump <fstump@mono.ca.gov>; jhalferty <jhalferty@mono.ca.gov>; skendall <skendall@mono.ca.gov>

**Sent:** Mon, Oct 1, 2018 3:54 pm  
**Subject:** BOS Letter of Objection re: Inyo Forest Plan

Dear Members of the Board,

I want to commend the Board for your outstanding Letter of Objection to the Inyo National Forest regarding the final Forest Plan. I hope that you will vote at tomorrow's meeting to formally submit this objection to the Inyo.

I spent more than a decade working on the litigation and stream restoration negotiations for Rush, Walker, Parker and Lee Vining Creeks, on behalf of the Mono Lake Committee (1984-1995). I am very familiar with the research by which the historic watershed conditions prior to LADWP's water diversions were identified and the process by which stream flow recommendations and restoration activities were developed and implemented. The recovery of wild and scenic values has been remarkable, and I am pleased to know that the mission and commitment to restore functional ecosystems with a capacity for self-renewal on these streams, along with Mill Creek, continues into the future. It is most heartening to read the Board's recognition of the importance of these vital riparian corridors and fisheries to Mono County.

Likewise, it is most encouraging that the Board recognizes the importance of conserving Mono County lands that merit Wilderness Designation and has become a strong champion for their protection.

Thank you for being true stewards of Mono County's precious wild and scenic environmental values!

Sincerely,

Ilene Mandelbaum  
PO Box 89  
Lee Vining, CA 93541