

**NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Project Name: Granite Basin OHV Trail Development Project

Notice Date: November 5, 2020

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code § 21000 *et seq.*) notification is hereby given to responsible agencies, trustee agencies and the public that the Butte County Resource Conservation District proposes to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the Granite Basin OHV Trail Development Project.

Project Description: The project involves construction and/or reconstruction of 14.23 miles of new and existing non-system OHV routes for single lane motorcycle use, and, in certain locations (.30 miles), for all-terrain vehicles (ATV) in Granite Basin on the Plumas National Forest in Plumas County, CA (See Figure 1 and 2). The trails are designed to match the character of the existing system trails, while keeping trail and construction impacts low and increasing recreational value by providing connectivity and all-day riding options. The new proposed routes would be a combination of hand and machine built trail. The construction method would be based on terrain and soil conditions as determined by the contractor. The recommended equipment to be used by the contractor would be a mini-skid steer with a 6-way blade and/or a mini excavator (< 4 feet width). Sections of trail that are dense rock would likely be hand built. Trail routes were developed to avoid impacts to natural resources and all significant cultural resource sites.

The second component of this project involves reclassification of roads in Granite Basin from Maintenance Level 3 (ML3) to Maintenance Level 2 (ML2) or mixed use. Roads 23N18 and 23N95Y within the project area are currently designated as Maintenance Level (ML3) roads, which are maintained for travel by standard passenger car and do not allow OHV travel. ML2 roads are defined to roads open for use by high-clearance vehicles and allow OHV travel. Mixed use involves maintaining the road for standard passenger cars, but allowing for OHV use as well. The project proposed to change 6.9 miles of 23N18 and 3.2 miles of 23N95Y from ML3 to ML2 or mixed use. This change would increase OHV recreational value within Granite Basin by providing connectivity and all-day riding.

The third component of this project involves decommissioning 12.46 miles of roads or road segments within Granite Basin that are no longer in use and/or cause resource damage.

Project Location: Plumas County, CA, MDBM Township 22N, Range 06E, Section 12; T22N, R07E, Sections 5-7; T23N, 06E Sections 11-15, 21-28, 34; and 23N, 07E, Sections 18-23, 27, 29, 30, and 32. 30 miles Northeast of Oroville, CA.

Public Review Dates: The draft mitigated negative declaration will undergo a 30-day public review period during which comments may be submitted. The review period begins on November 6, 2020 and ends on December 7, 2020. Written comments regarding the contents of the mitigated negative declaration should be sent to: Tim Keeseey, Conservation Project Coordinator, Butte County RCD, 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 260-0934.

Location of Documents: The mitigated negative declaration and related documents are available for review at Butte County RCD, 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville, CA 95965.

The Notice of Intent will be posting at the following locations:

Butte County RCD
150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A
Oroville, CA 95965

Butte County Public Works
7 Country Center Dr.
Oroville, CA 95965

The Notice of Intent will also be posted on and off site in the area where the project is to be located.