



EL CAMINO SIERRA

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

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July 20, 2021

**COPY**

Inyo National Forest  
Attn: Adam Barnett  
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200  
Bishop, CA 93514

RE: Cottonwood Creek and Owens Headwaters Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) Management Plans

Mr. Barnett:

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, I would like to thank the USFS and the BLM for providing the opportunity to submit scoping comments on the Cottonwood Creek and Owens Headwaters Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR), Comprehensive River Management Plans. These areas are important features and water sources in both Mono and Inyo Counties. The Board of Supervisors encourages the USFS and BLM to treat these WSRs as the special places that they are, along with a balanced approach with regard to the needs of the communities that rely on them for water, recreation and livelihoods.

Inyo County has a long history of encouraging access to its natural beauty, to this end, we urge the USFS and BLM to strive to maintain multiple use access within the project area to the extent possible. This includes access to existing activities, roads and trails.

More specifically, with regard to the elements of the plans that need to be evaluated, we would like to see that any analysis of eliminating dispersed camping sites include a one to one replacement. We are also concerned with the potential of grazing allotments being considered for removal. Any evaluation of existing allotments needs to include:

- How allotment removal can affect holistic range management;
- The economic value of historic allotments on our agricultural economy as well as the distinct cultural value that binds our rural community together;
- How the economic and cultural vitality of Inyo County's livestock production depends in large part on the flexibility provided by various public land allotments. Range management practices coupled with weather patterns, grazing history and wildlife recovery patterns require a variety of allotments and terrain for optimal resource protection; and,
- A review of existing documents that show compatibility of grazing and aquatic recovery efforts.

In closing, I would like to state again that the Cottonwood Creek and Owens Headwaters WSRs are important features of both Mono and Inyo Counties. The Inyo County Board of Supervisors supports

the appropriate management of them and encourages this be done with sensitivity to the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Griffiths, Chairperson  
Inyo County Board of Supervisors