**SAMPLE EMAIL (This includes comments on all 3 planning topics open for public comment until Feb 1st, 2016. Cut and paste and add personal comments. Personal stories of places will have more influence)**

Regional Forester Randy Moore

U.S. Forest Service Region 5

Via cara-ecosystem-management.org

Dear Mr. Moore:

Thank you for seeking public feedback on the Forest Service’s preliminary Wilderness Evaluation and Wild & Scenic Rivers Inventory and Species of Conservation Concern for the Inyo National Forest Plan Revision. I particularly want to express my appreciation that the wilderness evaluation has significantly improved. I am happy to see four additional areas now under consideration.

I support the 10 areas currently considered for potential wilderness recommendation. In particular, I support including in the preferred alternative the recommended additions to the existing South Sierra, White Mountains, Inyo Mountains, and Piper Mountain Wilderness areas. I also support the “stand alone” areas recommended for protection, including the Glass Mountains, Deep Springs North, Harkless Flat, and Solider Canyon.

Although I support the recommendations to protect areas between the existing White Mountains and Inyo Mountains Wilderness areas, I believe more of this area needs protection to provide a “biological bridge” for the migration of wildlife species. Similarly, more of the lower elevations of the Glass Mountains should be protected. I would also like the agency to consider recommending wilderness for the scenic Dexter Canyon area north of the Glass Mountains and the Excelsior area on the California-Nevada border. I also believe a mid-elevation addition to the Ansel Adams Wilderness (Polygon 1179) should be considered. Adding to existing Wilderness enhances the opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation and may protect lower elevation areas that include ecosystems and plant communities currently underrepresented in the Wilderness System. It is surprising that not one acre of the more than 138,000 acres of potential additions to the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses along the sierra escarpment are under consideration for recommended wilderness.

Other special wild places on the Inyo may be best suited for Special Management. I believe the agency should reconsider Special Interest Areas and other alternative designations and analyze potential areas in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Secondly, I appreciate the Forest Service’s extensive inventory of potential Wild & Scenic Rivers. I support including in the preferred alternative all the eligible streams identified in the inventory, particularly such iconic streams as Lee Vining Creek, Laurel Creek, Hot Creek, Rock Creek, and Lone Pine Creek. I recommend that the Forest Service reassess the eastern portion of the Inyo National Forest, including streams found in the Glass, White and Inyo Mountains. Such eligible streams include Dexter and Wet Canyons, Birch Creek, and Black and Marble Canyons. I believe these streams support outstandingly remarkable values that were not adequately considered in the inventory. I would also like the agency to include the entire length

of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River that runs through the Inyo National Forest. Currently 3.5 river miles were found eligible when in fact nearly 22 river miles are eligible. The agency should also consider the lower reaches of Lee Vining and Rush creeks because their restored flows contribute significantly to the ecological health of Mono Lake.

Thirdly, I reviewed the new information on Species of Conservation Concern. I find the spreadsheets difficult to read and comment on. I was disappointed to see Desert Bighorn Sheep, Northern Goshawk, Black-backed Woodpecker and Pine Marten still missing from the list despite Best Available Science indicating a substantial concern to persist on the Forest and their inclusion on the Forest Assessment SCC list.

I thank you for taking the time to read my comments and incorporate them into revisions of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Your full name

address

email