

# United States Department of the Interior

Redwood National Park  
1111 Second Street  
Crescent City, California 95531

L7617 (Bald Hills Road)

April 30, 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (Bureau) proposes to pave and improve 2.6 miles of a rocked section of Bald Hills Road within Redwood National Park. The National Park Service (NPS) has requested and been granted designation by the Bureau as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this project. The Bureau is the Lead Agency under NEPA. Bald Hills Road is a public road operated and maintained by Humboldt County from US Highway 101 near Orick to SH 169 at Martin's Ferry Bridge, a distance of 32.2 miles. Humboldt County holds deeded easements for the road segment proposed for improvement.

The portion of Bald Hills Road inside the project area extends from the southeast edge of Childs Hill Prairie (Post Mile 13.46) to the intersection of Williams Ridge Road (P.M. 16.05), see Map 1. The road segment proposed for improvement is located in Redwood National Park within the Bald Hills Management Zone, an area of interrelated natural and cultural landscape features including the Lyons Ranches Historic District and the Bald Hills Archeological District. There are an additional 2.9 miles of unpaved road in Redwood National Park between the park boundary (P.M. 19.0) and Williams Ridge Road (P.M. 16.05), adjacent to the proposed project.

Bald Hills Road is a vital link for residents of the Yurok Reservation, from the tribal offices at the mouth of the Klamath River, upriver to the communities of Martins Ferry, Weitchpec, and Orleans. Bald Hills Road is the primary route for visitors to park resources and recreational opportunities in the Bald Hills within Redwood National Park, including ancient old-growth forests at Lady Bird Johnson Grove and Tall Trees Grove.

The NPS is seeking your input to identify issues and information needed to assess the environmental effects of the proposed action. This scoping letter describes the purpose and need for the project, a list of preliminary issues, and the environmental review process.

## Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to improve safety, improve road surface condition and stormwater drainage, enhance economic development and employment/educational opportunities for the Yurok Tribe, and reduce annual maintenance costs.

## Preliminary Issues:

The following issues have been identified and are to be considered in the EA:

- Effects on rare, sensitive, threatened and/or endangered plants and animals and their habitats
- Effects on historic and prehistoric districts, sites, or features
- Effects on visitor experience and safety
- Effects on visitor enjoyment of park resources
- Visual quality and viewsheds

### Environmental Assessment Process

An environmental assessment (EA) is under preparation that will consider a full range of alternatives in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Your early involvement in the process will assist us to determine the environmental issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EA. The EA will be distributed to interested or affected persons, organizations, agencies, and tribes for review and comment. The Bureau will make a final decision on the proposed action at the end of the review period after considering all comments.

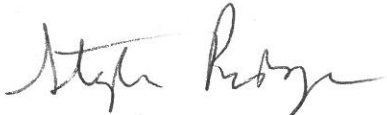
### Schedule:

The tentative schedule for the project is as follows:

Public Scoping	Spring 2014
Prepare EA	Summer 2014
Public Comment Period	August 2014
Complete Project Planning	October 2014
Initiate Project Implementation	Summer 2015

We are requesting your input to assist us to identify issues and provide us with information that the NPS may not be aware of. Please send your issues and information in writing by June 2, 2014 to Stephen Prokop, Superintendent, Redwood National and State Parks, 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, California 95531. You can also submit comments through the project NPS home page at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BaldHillsRoadimprovement>.

Sincerely,



Stephen Prokop  
Superintendent

Enclosure  
Map 1