

BACKCOUNTRY (PROBLEM) ASSESSMENT FORM

This form can be used by backpackers, hikers, packers, and canoers or by anyone using federal or state land. This form is to be used as a way of quickly assessing the health of the backcountry and the personal feelings of the participant. The federal and state agencies want to know about these problems and need your help in assessing the health of the backcountry.

LOCATION – As accurately as possible, describe the location the problem area(s), using reference points (provide the names, distances and directions for the nearest roads, trails, rivers, streams, mountains, mining claims, or other landmarks). Please enter any GPS coordinates, the longitude and latitude, and/or indicate the section, township and range of the area(s), if known.

DESCRIPTION OF WHAT YOU OBSERVED – Describe anything you saw that you thought was out-of-the-ordinary. (Over-grazed meadow, eroded stream-banks, poor trails or trail erosion, damaged fences, weed invasions, animal carcasses, trash, etc.) Include your thoughts on how these problems affected your backcountry experience.

IF POSSIBLE, TAKE A PICTURE OR MANY PICTURES OF PROBLEM!

(OVER)

*****REMEMBER TO ATTACH A BRIEF COVER LETTER REQUESTING AN ANSWER TO YOUR ASSESSMENT. ASK THE LAND MANAGERS TO RESPOND TO YOUR ASSESSMENT, AND ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE, AND ASK THEM WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO TO IMPROVE THE PROBLEM OBSERVED.*****

If they don't respond within one month, re-contact them. If you still fail to get a response or feel their response is inadequate, contact your local conservation chair, or a member of the Grazing Committee (<http://www.sierraclub.org/grazing/contact/>)

MAIL OR EMAIL THIS FORM, ALONG WITH YOUR LETTER AND PICTURES, TO THE DISTRICT RANGER, FOREST SUPERVISOR, REGIONAL FORESTER, AND THE CHIEF OF FOREST SERVICE. (Please substitute BLM administrators if on BLM land, park administrator if a state or national park, state forester if on state land, etc.) THE ADDRESSES OF THESE OFFICES CAN BE FOUND IN LOCAL PHONE BOOKS OR ON THE WEB. KEEP A COPY OF THE FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.