



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Los Padres  
National Forest

Mount Pinos Ranger District  
34580 Lockwood Valley Road  
Frazier Park, CA 93225  
(661) 245-3731  
TDD: (805) 968-6790

Fire Code: 1950

Date: March 30,2006

Dear Planning Participant:

The Mount Pinos Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest is responding to public desire for reducing the threat of wildfire to human life and investments by proposing two projects: the **Lake of the Woods Community Defense Zone Project** and the **Frazier Park Community Defense Zone Project**. These projects are located near the communities of Lake of the Woods and Frazier Park in southern Kern County, California. Both projects involve a combination of 1) cutting of selected shrubs and trees on National Forest System lands within 300 feet of dwellings and occupied structures to increase defensible space and firefighter safety; and 2) creating or expanding strategically placed fuelbreaks. We would like to invite you to participate in the planning process by letting us know if you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns about these proposals. To encourage your **informed** participation, please see attached project descriptions (Enclosures 1 and 3) and maps (Enclosures 2 and 4).

These projects have been proposed because fire is a regular **occurrence** around these communities. Our records show there have been at least 43 fire starts within a mile of Lake of the Woods and 122 fire starts within a mile of Frazier Park since 1916. The proposed treatments are designed to help implement the Forest's Land Management Plan goal to improve the ability of communities to limit loss of life and property due to wildland fires.

These projects will be designed in a manner that is consistent with direction **from** the 2005 Los Padres National Forest Land Management Plan and federal requirements to consider threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants and animals, heritage resources, and other resource issues. Riparian conservation areas will be managed to protect water quality and riparian conditions. These projects will not involve the use of herbicides, although borax (registered as Sporax) would be applied to freshly cut conifer stumps for control of **annosus** root rot disease. Treated areas will be maintained using mechanical equipment or prescribed fire to remove weeds or shrub re-growth.

We have hired Forest Service environmental planning specialists located in Happy Camp, California to work closely with local specialists to develop the project and produce necessary documents. If you would like additional information please contact one of the following people:

Names	Phone	Email	Address	Fax
Annie Buma	530-493-1725	abuma@fs.fed.us	ACT2 Enterprise Unit	530-493-1775
Judy Hahn	530-493-1721	jhahn@fs.fed.us	P.O. Box 377	
Fran Smith	530-493-1788	fsmith@fs.fed.us	Happy Camp, CA 96039	



For these projects to result in the best possible outcome for people and the environment please provide them with issues, concerns, suggestions, or information you may have regarding these projects by May 1,2006. This will allow us to consider your input during project development. You may also send comments by e-mail to:

[comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-mt-pinos@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-mt-pinos@fs.fed.us)

Or fax locally to: 661-245-1526.

Comments are a matter of public record and as such may be provided to interested parties upon request.

**Thank** you for your participation in this process.

Sincerely,

  
THOMAS A. KUEKES  
District Ranger

**Enclosure 1:** Lake of the Woods Community Defense Zone Project Introduction, Purpose and Need for Action, and Proposed Action

**Enclosure 2:** Lake of the Woods Community Defense Zone Project Area Map.

**Enclosure 3:** Frazier Park Community Defense Zone Project Introduction, Purpose and Need for Action, and Proposed Action

**Enclosure 4:** Frazier Park Community Defense Zone Project Area map.