



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Santa Lucia Ranger District  
(805) 925-9538  
Fax (805) 961-5781

1616 Carlotti Rd  
Santa Maria CA 93454

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February 23, 2005

Dear Planning Participant:

The Santa Lucia Ranger District is proposing forest health and fuels management treatments on Figueroa Mountain. A scoping letter to acquaint adjacent property owners and known interested parties with The "Figueroa Mountain Project", and ask for help in identifying issues to be address in the environmental analysis, was sent November 10, 2004. The letter invited participation in a field trip at the project site on Figueroa Mountain on December 4, 2004. In an effort to ensure all interested parties had adequate time to respond to the proposed project, the Santa Lucia District has extended the period for receiving input for this project to March 28, 2005. You are receiving this letter because you were on the original mailing list, attended the field trip, or have since contacted us with your interest in the project.

The "Figueroa Mountain Project" is a 667- acre area located along Figueroa Mountain Road (Rd 7N07) approximately 9 miles northeast of the community of Los Olivos, California. The legal description is T 8 N, R 30 W, Sections 25 and 36 and T 8 N, R 29 W, Sections 30 and 31 (see enclosed map).

Figueroa Mountain is a high value recreation area and the emphasis is to maintain it as such. The purpose of the project is to maintain the health of the existing mature conifers and oaks, and reduce the risk of future mortality of the conifers due to insects, disease, and catastrophic fire on Forest Service lands as well as on adjacent private lands.

Treatment is proposed on a total of 667 acres. Of the project area, an estimated 555 acres would be hand thinned and prescription underburned. A combination of mechanical treatment such as mastication combined with chainsaw hand thinning would be used. An additional area of 112 acres would be thinned to address overstocking, ladder fuels and mistletoe infection concerns, followed with mastication and prescription burning or jackpot burning. No new roads would be built. Large trees would be retained for visual, screening and shade objectives. Borax (presently registered as SPORAX) would be applied to freshly cut conifer stumps for control of annosus root rot disease (*Heterobasidium annosum*). Small scale under burning may take place within the project area once cutting activities are completed or to maintain a desired condition. See the enclosed document titled Figueroa Mountain Project Proposed Action and the project area map for more detailed information on the project.

Your comments, suggestions, or concerns relative to this project are requested and will help us with analysis and project development. Your comments should be submitted by March 28, 2005 to be considered in the decision. Comments should be addressed (or sent via email) to:

Project Leader  
Figueroa Mountain Project  
Santa Lucia Ranger District  
1616 Carlotti Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
PH (805) 925-9538, FAX (805) 961-5781  
EMAIL: [comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-santa-lucia@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-santa-lucia@fs.fed.us)



This proposed project is currently being analyzed as a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and a Decision Memo is expected in the next 60 days. Public comments would be considered in any decision to be made; however, under the Categorical Exclusion process there is no administrative appeal process under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217.

For further information about the Figueroa Mountain Project, or if you would like a copy of the final decision, please contact Melody Fountain at (805) 925-9538.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Kathleen Phelps*

KATHLEEN PHELPS

District Ranger

*Enclosure: 1. Figueroa Mt. Proposed Action document and Project Map*

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217 if applicable. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.