



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mount Pinos Ranger District
(661) 245-3731
Fax (661) 245-1526

34580 Lockwood Valley Rd
Frazier Park, CA 93225

February 25,
2005

Dear Planning Participant:

The Mount Pinos Ranger District is proposing the Frazier Mountain Project located approximately 4 miles south and west of Frazier Park, California. The area includes several heavily used recreational sites and one developed campground. The project is located in T8N, R19W, portions of Sections 7 and 18; and T8N, R20W, portions of Sections 4, 8, 9; 10 through 16; 22 through 24, and 27-28. See the attached project map.

The desired condition for forest, shrub, and plantations stands in the project area is to create conditions such that during a wildfire event, fire intensity would be low, with average flame lengths of four feet or less, and where fire suppression and evacuation would be effective, rapid, and safe. The project is also designed to create vegetative stand conditions that promote a healthy and vigorous forest stand that is irregular uneven-aged, multi-sized, and with a variety of species.

The purpose of the Frazier Mountain Project is to provide fire hazard reduction, reduce risk and maintain health of mature conifers, and protect high value recreation areas. This project is also a continuation of management practices initiated in the last 20 years to move existing vegetation toward healthy forest conditions. The project would thin dense stands of conifers to reduce tree competition and crown densities, reduce under story green tree and hardwood brush competition, reforest previously burned areas, decrease ladder and surface fuel accumulations, and reduce existing brush cover on 1,741 acres of the 2,903 acre project area of National Forest land bordering or adjacent to the area of Frazier Mountain.

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*). See the attached detailed description of the proposed treatments.

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 25th, 2005** to be most useful in the environmental analysis. Comments should be addressed to:

Project Leader
Frazier Mt. Project
Mount Pinos Ranger District
34580 Lockwood Valley Road
Frazier Park, CA 93225
PH 661 245-3731, FAX 661 245-1526
EMAIL comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-mt-pinos@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 Frazier Mountain project please contact John Kelly at 661 245-3731.



Caring for the Land and Serving People Printed on Recycled Paper



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tom Kuekes'.

THOMAS A. KUEKES District Ranger

Enclosures: Frazier Mountain Project Proposed Action and 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.