



April 29, 2005

Subject: Proposed McGill-Mt. Pinos Project

Dear Planning Participant:

The Mount Pinos Ranger District is proposing the McGill-Mt. Pinos Project. The project is located approximately 12 miles west of Frazier Park, California. The project area includes McGill, Mt Pinos and Chula Vista Campgrounds. The legal location is Kern and Ventura Counties, T8N, R21 W, Sec. 3 to 5 and 8; T9N, R21W, Sec. 33 to 35). The project is approximately 1,010 acres in size.

The purpose of this project is to maintain health of the mature conifers, reduce the risk of mortality due to insects, disease, and catastrophic fire, protect high value recreation areas, and preserve old growth pine stands. The project would thin stands of conifers to reduce tree competition and crown densities, reduce under-story smaller trees, and decrease ladder and surface fuel accumulations.

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 and a project location map.

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 **May 29, 2005** to be most useful in the environmental analysis. Comments should be addressed to:

Project Leader
McGill-Mt. Pinos Project
Mt. Pinos Ranger District
34580 Lockwood Valley Road
Frazier Park, CA 93225
or 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 218.

For further information about the McGill-Mt. Pinos project please contact John Kelly, District Resources Officer, at (661) 245-3731.

Sincerely,

KAREN A. MCKINLEY
Acting District Ranger

Enclosure: McGill-Mt. Pinos 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.