



April 22, 2005

Subject: Proposed Organization Camps Project

Dear Planning Participant:

The Mount Pinos Ranger District is proposing the Organization Camps Project located west of Cuddy Valley private land subdivision and approximately 8 miles northwest of Frazier Park, California. The project area includes several heavily used organization camps operating under special use permits on National Forest Lands. The project area is located in Kern County, T9N, R21W, Sections 23 to 26. The project is approximately 700 acres in size.

The purpose of the Organization Camps project is to provide fire hazard reduction, reduce risk and maintain health of mature conifers, and protect high value special use organizational camps. 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 on 700 acres of National Forest land. Organization Camps in the project area include Bethany Pines, Tecuya, C.S.O, El Camino, St. Nicholas, Frontier Pines and Frazier Woods. See attached map of project area.

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 **May 23, 2005** to be most useful in the environmental analysis. Comments should be addressed to:

Project Leader
Organization Camps 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 Organization Camps project please contact John Kelly, District Resources Officer, at (661) 245-3731.

Sincerely,

KAREN A. MCKINLEY
Acting District Ranger

Enclosure: Organization Camps 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.