



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Mount Pinos Ranger District  
(661) 245-3731  
Fax (661) 245-1536

34580 Lockwood Valley Rd  
Frazier Park, CA 93225

---

May 25, 2006

Dear Planning Participant:

The Mount Pinos Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the **Pine Mountain Club Project**. The Pine Mountain Club Project is located just west of the community of Pine Mountain Club, and approximately 14 miles west of Frazier Park, California. The legal location of the project is T9N, R22 W, Sections 13-15, 22-28, and 33-35.

The Mount Pinos Ranger District is proposing to implement vegetation treatments on a total of approximately 1,865 acres adjacent to Pine Mountain Club community. There are seven treatment areas (blocks) within the Pine Mt. Club project area. Treatments would be completed over a period of 5-10 years. The proposed action would thin dense stands of timber while retaining large trees. Existing and activity fuels would be removed or reduced through a variety of means. Small scale underburning would be conducted to complete or maintain the desired condition. Existing fuels would be piled for burning or stands would be underburned following thinning. Ladder fuels, tops and limbs and excess large fuels would be removed or burned on site. Activity fuels would be treated and existing fuels would be reduced or maintained at the same level. A masticator would be used on some brush species to reduce the depth of fuels, reducing fire behavior. Borax (*presently registered as SPORAX*) would be applied to freshly cut conifer stumps for control of annosus root rot disease (*Hertobasidium annosum*).

An initial scoping letter about the project was mailed to interested publics on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Scoping comments received about the proposed action were used to develop issues and alternatives for the Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Pine Mountain Club Project EA is enclosed for your review and comments. In addition, the EA and supplemental project information including color maps are available on the Los Padres National Forest website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/projects/hfp>.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 215, you are invited to comment on this proposal during a 30-day formal notice and comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments on the EA prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in the newspaper of record (*The Bakersfield Californian*, published daily in Bakersfield, Kern County, California and on the internet at: <http://www.bakersfield.com/>). The publication date of the legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the 30-day comment period. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure their comments are received in a timely manner. Public comments received in a timely manner will be considered by the Responsible Official in reaching a final decision.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible for appeal must provide during the 30-day comment period, a name, address, and comments on the proposed actions along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision. A signature or other verification of identity must be provided upon request (36 CFR 215.6). Those who submit timely comments per 36 CFR 215 or have otherwise expressed interest in the project will meet standing qualifications for administrative review.



If submitting oral comments, those must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone (661-245-3731) or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit comments. The Responsible Official for this project is the District Ranger, Mount Pinos Ranger District at the address noted below.

Written comments must be postmarked by the Postal Service, faxed, or emailed by 11:59 pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> calendar day following publication of the legal notice of the opportunity to comment. Written letters should be submitted to:

**District Ranger,  
Pine Mountain Club Project,  
Mount Pinos Ranger District,  
34850 Lockwood Valley Road,  
Frazier Park, CA 93225.**

If submitting comments via FAX, send to (661) 245-1526. Electronic comments via email must be submitted in a format such as an email message, with attachments in plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), adobe (.pdf) or Word (.doc) formats to: [comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-mt-pinos@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-mt-pinos@fs.fed.us). Use the name of the project (Pine Mountain Club Project) as the subject line in your email and provide your full name, postal address, and a telephone number. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

The Forest Service will consider comments in reaching a final decision on this proposal. The final EA document and Decision Notice and will be sent to those that provided comments or otherwise requested it. The final EA and Decision Notice are expected in July 2006.

For further information about the Pine Mountain Club Project please contact John Kelly at (661) 245-3731.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas A. Kuekes

THOMAS A. KUEKES  
District Ranger

*Enclosure: Pine Mountain Club Environmental Assessment*

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.