



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Los Padres
National Forest

Mount Pinos Ranger District
34580 Lockwood Valley Road
Frazier Park, CA 93225
(661) 245-3731
TDD: (805) 968-6790

File Code: 1950

Date: April 18, 2007

Dear Interested Party;

The Mount Pinos Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest is proposing to reestablish safe public access in the Alamo Mountain and Grade Valley areas. The Day Fire of 2006 burned through these areas leaving dead and dying trees that are hazardous to National Forest roadways and facilities. The **Day Fire Hazard Tree Project** proposes to cut down trees with high potential to fall or roll onto a roadway or facility and cause personal injury or property damage. Forest Service personnel are preparing to conduct an analysis of the proposed project located about ten miles south and southwest of the community of Frazier Park in Ventura County, California.

You are invited to participate in the planning process by letting us know if you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns about this proposal. To encourage your informed participation, please see the following attachments:

Attachment 1: Detailed description of the Purpose of and Need for Action, and Proposed Action;

Attachment 2: Photos of hazard trees taken from roadways and facilities within proposed project areas.

Attachment 3: Day Fire Hazard Tree Project Alamo Mountain Map

Attachment 4: Day Fire Hazard Tree Project Grade Valley Map

You are also invited to attend a public field trip May 5, 2007. You would need to wear clothing appropriate for an outdoor setting. A high clearance vehicle is desirable. The field trip is scheduled to start 10:00 am at the intersection of Grade Valley Road and Lockwood Valley Road about 12 miles west of the Chuchupate Ranger Station. The field trip will take four to five hours so bring a lunch, drinking water, and any other supplies you will need while in the field.



The proposed action will be fully analyzed prior to any decision on final project design. We have hired Forest Service environmental planning specialists located in Happy Camp, California to work closely with the local specialists to guide the analysis and prepare necessary documents. If you would like additional information please contact one of the following people:

Names	Address	Phone	Fax	email
Annie Buma	c/o Happy Camp Ranger District, P.O. Box 377, Happy Camp, CA 96039	530-493-1725	530- 493- 1775	abuma@fs.fed.us
Bonnie Allison		530-493-1758		ballison@fs.fed.us
Judy Hahn		530-493-1721		jhahn@fs.fed.us
Fran Smith		530-493-1788		fjsmith@fs.fed.us

For this project to result in the best possible outcome for people and the environment please provide your issues, concerns, suggestions, or any additional information you may have regarding this project to one of the individuals listed above by **May 11, 2007**. This will allow time to consider your input during project development. You may also send comments by email to: comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-mt-pinos@fs.fed.us. Opinions and values will be noted, but the intent of the process is not to serve as a public opinion poll. Comments are a matter of public record and as such may be provided to interested parties upon request.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this process.

Sincerely,



THOMAS A. KUEKES
Mount Pinos District Ranger

ATTACHMENT 1

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of and need for action is to work towards the following goals and objectives within the area burned by the Day Fire of 2006:

- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities while sustaining natural resources (USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan Goal 3). Continue to use investment in infrastructure for recreation access and uses.
- Remove trees or tree limbs identified as hazardous at recreation sites (FSM 2332.11).
- Provide safe public access to recreational opportunities (Forest Plan Goal 3.1).
- Re-establish safe recreation opportunities consistent with program emphasis for the Hungry Valley – Mutau Forest Plan Place.
- Mitigate or eliminate public safety problems associated with dispersed public uses and camping opportunities (Forest Plan Strategy REC 3).
- Reduce fuels along public access routes to decrease wildfire intensity (Forest Plan Goal 1.1) to enable safer, effective wildfire suppression.
- Provide safe fire protection access and evacuation routes (Forest Plan TRANS 1).
- Prevent establishment of *annosus* root disease (Forest Plan Standard S5).
- Reestablish tree component as part of recreation facility for visual quality, shade, screening, and barriers.

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action includes the following features:

- Cut down identifiable hazard trees from sites adjacent to about 40 miles of roads, OHV trails, and within campgrounds and trailheads in the Alamo Mountain and Grade Valley areas (see attached maps).
- The most accessible cut-down material would be removed as saw logs or fuelwood.
- The remaining cut-down material would be piled and burned in place, or left on site.
- Some openings would be planted with tree species similar to those preceding the fire.
- Treat freshly cut live or recently dead conifer stumps with registered fungicide (borax).
- Rehabilitate roads and OHV trails to designated operational maintenance levels.

Hazard Tree:

A tree is considered a hazard if all or a portion of the tree has high potential to fall or roll onto a roadway or facility and cause personal injury or property damage.

Distance from roadway or facility is generally 1.5 tree height on uphill side, 1 tree height down-hill, 1 tree height if flat.

All Los Padres National Forest Land Management Plan (2005) standards will be met. Project-specific standards include:

- Biologist oversight during breeding season for migratory birds.
- Area roads, trails, and campgrounds may remain closed to the public until safe conditions are re-established.
- Log hauling through Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area will not be allowed on Fridays, weekends, and holidays.
- No new roads will be constructed.
- No tree removal will take place in the Sespe Wilderness.