



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Los Padres
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 968-6640
TDD: (805) 968-6790

File Code: 1950

Date:

Dear Interested Party:

The US Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) is seeking public comment on the Proposed Action to demolish all existing facilities and reconstruct a new Administrative Office (District Office) on National Forest System Lands for the Mount Pinos Ranger District. The proposed project area is located at 34580 Lockwood Valley Road in Frazier Park, California. The project will be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). For a more detailed description of the Proposed Action, Purpose and Need, and the nature of the decision to be made, please refer to the enclosed attachment.

This public comment period is the scoping stage under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The formal scoping period will end 30 days from the date of this letter. If you would like more information on this project, please contact Bruce Emmens, Forest Recreation, Lands, and Engineering Staff Officer at 805-961-5734. If you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, or believe you have constructive ideas regarding potential effects of the proposal, please send your comments in writing to comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres-mprd@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

PEGGY HERNANDEZ
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure



Proposed Action

The proposed action includes the following:

- Total demolition of the existing administrative office, several outbuildings and trailers
- Design and construction of a new office building, Heliport Facility, and Fire Station
- Upgrade and relocate all utilities
- Locate temporary office space during construction for affected employees

The new building construction will have appurtenant site development, such as delineating, re-paving and striping separate public, employee and government vehicle parking and installation of new security fencing and gates to separate public from non-public areas. Landscaping around the buildings and parking areas will consist of native and drought-resistant plants, which will require little or no water for sustenance. Construction is expected to start in Fall 2010, with a completion date in Summer 2011.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need for the proposed action is to:

1. Replace outdated existing space into an efficient space for office staff and public interaction;
2. Comply with Forest Service architectural guidelines;
3. Meet “Silver” LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) requirements as set by the US Green Building Council;
4. Incorporate elements of the local community design standards.

Background Information

The Administrative Office for the Mount Pinos Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest provides overall management and specialist services to the southeastern part of the Forest. The existing office and several outbuildings were constructed in 1940 and additional modular space was added during the 1970’s and 1980’s. The construction standards of these buildings fall short of current laws and codes. The Forest Facilities Master Plan documents replacement of the District Office, Helibase Facility and Engine Module.

Washington Office, Regional, and Forest primary management direction is to provide safe, clean, attractive, efficient and accessible facilities for all permanent and temporary employees and to provide service to the public, while reducing fixed costs through consolidation of facilities and decommissioning of unneeded buildings and administrative sites. The project proposal is consistent with the Forest Plan direction as described in Part 2, Buildings, Grounds and Utilities (pages 28 & 29) and Appendix B - Program Strategies and Tactics, Fac 1 Facilities Maintenance Backlog (page 133).

Decision to be made

The decision to be made is whether to proceed with the proposed action as proposed, with modifications, or not at all (No Action Alternative).

Public Involvement

This project has been published in the Schedule of Proposed Actions for the Los Padres National Forest since July 1, 2009. Comments received in response to this request, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record of this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Scoping comments should be as specific as possible in order for the Forest Service to identify and consider each issue or concern.