



File Code: 1950
Date: June 2, 2005

Public Comments Requested for South Big Bear Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project

Dear Friend of the San Bernardino National Forest,

The Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest, Mountaintop Ranger District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment for proposed treatments designed to restore forest stand structures and species composition typical of forest sites to reduce drought effects, crown-fire hazard, and risk of bark beetle mortality.

The Environmental Assessment and related information are available for review on the San Bernardino National Forest web page, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/deadtrees/deadtreeswhatsfdoing.shtml> or at Big Bear Ranger Station, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333. The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide meaningful participation prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Electronic (email), written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and oral, and comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the San Bernardino County Sun. Thirty days is estimated to be July 11, 2005. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

The preferable comment method is electronic. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to kmenasco@fs.fed.us, with S. Big Bear EA written in the subject line. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments. If this is not possible, written comments may be submitted to: Jon C Regelbrugge, Deputy District Ranger, Big Bear Ranger Station, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments to Big Bear Ranger Station at 42300 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, CA 92333 are: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone, 909-382-2728 or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments.



Appeal Eligibility

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Those who provide substantive comments during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision under the regulations. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must provide the following information:

- 1.Name and Address;
- 2.Title of the environmental assessment;
- 3.Specific substantive comments (36 CFR 215.2) on the environmental assessment, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision;
- 4.Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comments(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility;
- 5.For multiple names or multiple organizations, a signature must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each organization, or for each individual that wishes to have appeal eligibility, and
- 6.Individual members of organizations must submit their own substantive comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility as an individual, comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

Sincerely,

JON C REGELBRUGGE
Deputy District Ranger

Enclosures

