

The San Gabriel River Ranger District, Angeles National Forest, proposes to improve forest health in the Crystal Lake Recreation Area located in San Gabriel Canyon.

During the 2002 Curve Fire much of the project area burned, leaving high degree of mortality in the existing pine plantation, natural oak stand and natural conifer stand. Lack of management activity in this area since the fire has lead to the invasion of brush species into these tree stands and has created a situation where a future fire could again spread rapidly and at high intensity, damaging the residual stand.

The project will involve the removal of dead trees within the campground to provide for enhanced public safety. The project also includes tree planting with native plant species in areas where mortality from insect, disease, drought or fire has occurred; hand clearing of brush and tree pruning to reduce the potential of a fire sreading from surface fuels into the canopy of the trees. Finally, thinning of the tree stands to reduce competition. This will increase available soil moisture and create a healthier growing condition for the remaining trees. All material generated from the proposed action will be piled and burned on site.

The purpose of this project is to increase the resistance of the stands to the effects of fire, enhance wildlife habitat, improve health and vigor of the natural stands and assure the long term retention of these features on the landscape of the forest. The project will be completed over a five year period.

The complete project proposal can be viewed at the San Gabriel River Ranger District Office located at 110 N. Wabash Avenue, Glendora, CA 91741 or on the Angeles National Forest website. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/projects/>

A comment period provides interested parties, including those affected by the project proposal, an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made. Comments may be mailed to L'Tanga Watson, District Ranger, San Gabriel River Ranger District, 110 N. Wabash Avenue, Glendora, CA 91741. Comments may also be made by calling 626-335-1251. The comment period closes May 30, 2009. Comments received after this date may not be considered.

This project is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement as per Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 31.2.6. The agency's decision to proceed with the action will be documented in a decision memo.