



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Cleveland National Forest  
SO

10845 Rancho Bernardo Rd.  
Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92127-2107  
(858) 673-6180  
(858) 673-6192 FAX  
(800) 735-2922 CRS

File Code: 1950/1920

Date: April 20, 2012

**Dear Interested Officials, Agencies, State and Local Governments, Tribes, and Public:**

On behalf of the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino National Forests, I am pleased to announce the release of our Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed amendment to the Land Management Plans. The proposed amendment would modify the existing land use zones (LUZ) allocations in selected Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) to include more Back Country Non-Motorized (BCNM) and Recommended Wilderness (RW) areas. An alternate monitoring framework is also proposed. The full details of the proposed action can be found on the project webpage at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=35130>

This proposed Land Management Plan amendment is a result of the Settlement Agreement approved January 3, 2011 for California Resources Agency, et al vs. United States Department of Agriculture, and Center for Biological Diversity, et al vs. United States Department of Agriculture.

**Major components of the Proposed Action**

The proposed action would change the LUZ allocation to BCNM on approximately 300,000 acres of IRAs, and change the LUZ allocation to RW on approximately 80,000 acres of IRAs. The majority of the additional BCNM allocations are located in IRAs on the Los Padres National Forest and San Bernardino National Forest. Additions to the RW allocations are within IRAs on the Angeles and Cleveland National Forests.

On the Angeles National Forest, the Fish Canyon and Salt Creek IRAs were combined to create the proposed 40,000 acre Fish Canyon RW area. On the Cleveland National Forest, the proposed 23,000 acre Eagle Peak RW area includes portions of the Eagle Peak, Sill Hill, and No Name IRAs, along with portions of the Cedar Creek and Upper San Diego River undeveloped areas. The 11,000 acre Barker Valley and 5,000 acre Caliente RW areas are also proposed on the Cleveland National Forest.

The proposed action monitoring and evaluation requirements are based on the current monitoring framework (Part 3, Appendix C of the Land Management Plans). Revisions include updates to the monitoring requirements for forest health, riparian condition, and biological resource condition. Monitoring indicators were also clarified to reflect current inventory methodology in several areas, and an indicator was added to track unclassified (unauthorized) roads and trails. The revision also include more details on how monitoring will be implemented, and how projects will be selected for monitoring.

**Lead and Cooperating Agencies**

The Forest Service is the lead federal agency for the Land Management Plan Amendment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Environmental Protection Agency, State of California Natural Resources Agency (including the Departments of Fish and Game, Parks and Recreation,



and Forestry and Fire Protection), Ventura County, and Orange County Fire Authority have agreed to participate as cooperating agencies. Other federal, state, and local agencies as well as tribes are invited to join as cooperators.

### **Public Meetings**

The Forest Service will be hosting multiple open house workshops during the scoping period. The content and format of each meeting will be the same. Forest Service staff will be available to answer questions about the proposed action. Maps of the proposed changes will be available for viewing. The meeting times and locations are:

- May 29, 2012, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Avenue Adult Center, 550 N. Ventura Avenue, Ventura, CA 93001 (Hosted by Los Padres National Forest)
- May 30, 2012, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Angeles National Forest Headquarters, 701 North Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91006.
- May 31, 2012, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Santa Maria Red Cross, 3030 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93455 (Hosted by Los Padres National Forest)
- May 31, 2012, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Santa Clara Mojave Rivers Ranger District Office, 33708 Crown Valley Road, Acton, CA 93510
- May 31, 2012, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, San Bernardino National Forest Headquarters, 602 S. Tippecanoe Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92408.
- May 31, 2012, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Palomar Ranger District Office, 1634 Black Canyon Road, Ramona, CA 92065
- June 1, 2012, 1:00 PM to 4 PM, Frazier Park Library, 3732 Park Drive, Frazier Park, CA 93225 (Hosted by Los Padres National Forest)
- June 5, 2012, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Descanso Ranger District office, 3348 Alpine Blvd, Alpine, CA 91901
- June 5, 2012, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Trabuco Ranger District office, 1147 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Corona, CA 92879

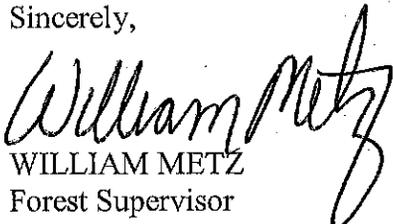
### **How to Comment**

You are invited to participate in the process. Comments should be received within 45 days of the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register (publication is scheduled for April 27, 2012). Send written comments to Cleveland National Forest, 10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92127-2107, ATTN: LMP Amendment. Comments may be sent via e-mail to [socal\\_nf\\_lmp\\_amendment@fs.fed.us](mailto:socal_nf_lmp_amendment@fs.fed.us), or filed through the project web page at <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=35130>.

### **For Further Information**

Contact Bob Hawkins, Project Manager at [socal\\_nf\\_lmp\\_amendment@fs.fed.us](mailto:socal_nf_lmp_amendment@fs.fed.us), or visit the project website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=35130>.

Sincerely,

  
WILLIAM METZ  
Forest Supervisor