



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

San Bernardino
National Forest
Front Country
Ranger District

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File Code: 1950
Date: 5/18/06

Dear Interested Citizen,

The enclosed draft memorandum describes the Boundary Ridge proposal by the San Bernardino National Forest, Front Country Ranger District. The project is designed to respond to hazard fuels and forest health concerns around the Community of Wrightwood, California. This 145-acre project is located in T3N, R7W Sections 14,15, 20-22 in San Bernardino County.

My preliminary assessment is that this proposal falls within a category of actions listed in the Forest Service NEPA Handbook (FSH) that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and there are no extraordinary circumstances that would preclude use of the category. (FSH 1909.15, Chapter 31.2— Category 10 -Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire, not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres).

This comment period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. This comment period is being provided pursuant to the July 2, 2005, order issued by the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Case No. CIV F-03-6386JKS. Those who provide timely and substantive comments will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a legal notice in the San Bernardino Sun. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. 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.

Written comments must be submitted to: James Rudisill at the Lytle Creek Ranger Station, 1209 Lytle Creek Road, Lytle Creek, CA 92358. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone 909-382-2873 or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to jamesrudisill@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for



appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

Sincerely,

Gabe Garcia
District Ranger
Front Country Ranger District

Attachments



Boundary Ridge Project Proposed Action

Front Country Ranger District San Bernardino National Forest

The Front Country Ranger District of the San Bernardino National Forest has proposed the Boundary Ridge Project to respond to hazard fuels and forest health concerns around the Community of Wrightwood, California. This 145-acre project is located in T3N, R7W Sections 14, 15, 20-22 in San Bernardino County.

The Community of Wrightwood has been designated as a “Community at Risk” from wildfire as defined in the Federal Register, August 17, 2001 (Vol. 66, No. 160). It occurs within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests which are currently experiencing extended drought, significant tree mortality, and increased accumulation of wildland fire fuels. The Boundary Ridge Project proposes to reduce wildland fire risk and improve forest health by removing dead and dying trees, thinning overstocked stands, reducing chaparral/shrubs, and creating fuel breaks. It would complement actions being developed in the Angeles National Forest’s Wrightwood Project, and the Los Angeles County, San Bernardino County, and California Department of Forestry projects. This project is identified as a project in the Wrightwood Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Proposed activities would occur within the next 5 years.

PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PROJECT

This project is proposed to make progress toward goals embodied by the Southern California National Forest Land Management Plan (2005). The plan consists of three parts: (1) Southern California National Forests Vision (2) San Bernardino National Forest Strategy and (3) Design Criteria for the Southern California National Forests. The desired future condition of the project area is defined by the Forest Vision and Forest Strategy as follows

The project area will be maintained as a natural culturally rich landscape that functions as a year-round, low elevation open space for Mojave Basin residents and residents of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties (Forest Strategy p.77). Chaparral, forests and pinyon and Joshua tree woodlands would be managed to provide fire protection for adjacent urban communities, compatible dispersed recreation use, high quality wildlife habitat and to protect plant communities from type conversion by frequent burning (Forest Strategy p.77).

The montane conifer forests would have a natural appearance and would be more open and resistant to large-scale, high-severity fires. Surface and ladder fuels would allow for low-intensity surface fires. The forest would trend towards its historic Fire Regime I (Forest Vision p. 23). Vegetation would be treated to enhance community protection and reduce the risk of



loss of human life, structures, improvements, and natural resources from wildland fire (Forest Vision p. 20). The community of Wrightwood would be surrounded by strategically placed, young and less flammable blocks of chaparral to protect the community and improve the effectiveness of fire suppression (Forest Vision p. 26). Community protection from wildland fire is of the highest priority. It will be emphasized through public education, fire prevention, and fuels management in cooperation with city, county and state agencies (Forest Strategy p. 78).

Additionally, the montane conifer forests would be more open and resistant to drought, insect outbreaks, and diseases. Forest species compositions and stand densities would be similar to presettlement compositions. Forest stand structures contain large trees (Forest Vision p. 24). Coulter pine forests would occur on the landscape on appropriate sites and would have adequate seed sources to regenerate the species following a stand-replacing fire (Forest Vision p. 26). Timber and chipped woody material would be generated as a by-product of ecosystem management, healthy forest restoration, fuels management and community protection projects for energy production as well as other higher value uses (Forest Vision p. 39).

Currently, the project area contains dead and dying conifers due to drought, bark beetle activity and/or disease. Existing fuel breaks are incomplete or have not been maintained. A collaborative wildfire risk reduction strategy has not been implemented. Most forested stands in the project area are susceptible to moderate or high-intensity fire, insects, and disease. Forest and woodland understory plant communities are deficient and chaparral/shrub fields are decadent.

Therefore, there is a need to implement collaborative fuel reduction actions, reduce standing dead and live trees, modify species composition, regenerate chaparral/shrub fields, and create fuel breaks to meet the project objectives and the desired future condition defined by the San Bernardino National Forest Plan.

PROPOSED ACTION

Proposed Action Summary

The Forest is proposing three general actions to meet the purpose and need of the project (please refer to attached map – *Boundary Ridge Proposed Action Summary*):

Fuel Breaks (75 acres): Fuel breaks would be constructed and maintained south of the community of Wrightwood to reduce fuel hazards as part of a coordinated set of fuels management activities. Activities in fuel breaks would include:

- Fell all dead and dying trees.
- Thinning live trees less than 9 inches in diameter.
- Handpile and burn all material less than 6 inches in diameter.
- Reducing shrub cover.
- Pruning trees.



Thin Trees (50 acres): Forested areas outside of fuel breaks would be thinned to reduce bark beetle risk, and to modify wildland fuel conditions. In these areas activities would include:

- Thinning live trees less than 9 inches in diameter.
- Reducing shrubs in forest understories where needed.

Thin Brush (20 acres): Chaparral shrub fields outside of fuel breaks would be treated to modify fire behavior by reducing fireline intensity. Activities in shrub fields would include:

- Mechanically masticating (chopping and shredding) shrubs.

Detailed Proposed Action

General actions are further refined based upon individual stand conditions. Six treatment types are proposed to accomplish project objectives (Table 1).

Measures such as tree species, size, density, age, number of dead trees, and topographic location dictate the specific treatments needed for each forest stand. Based on this need, treatments are combined into a prescription for the stand. These prescriptions are detailed in Table 2.

Table 1 - Proposed Treatments

TREATMENT	ACRES
Hand Pile and Burn	8
Lop and Scatter	46
Masticate	83
Pre-Commercial Thin	87
Prune	7
Jack Pot Burn	46

Table 2 - Treatment Prescriptions

PRESCRIPTION	ACRES	PRESCRIPTION	ACRES
PCT/LS/JB	46	MAS	20
HP/PRUNE	8	PCT/MAS	5
MAS/PRUNE	29	PCT/MAS/PRUNE	29
PCT/HP/PRUNE	7	No Treatment	1
TOTAL		145 acres	
CT – Commercial Thin		LS- Lop and Scatter	
PCT- Pre-Commercial Thin		MAS – Masticate	
HP – Hand Pile		JB - Jackpot Burn	
PRUNE – Prune Branches			

Each prescription is defined as:

PCT/LS/JB: Precommercially thin trees less than 9" dbh from below resulting in approximately 100 trees per acre. Lop and scatter remaining slash residue to within 24 inches of the ground. Pull created slash from around remaining trees to a distance of 10 feet. Jackpot burn (JP) slash residue down to about 5 tons per acre or less.

HP/PRUNE: This occurs within the proposed fuel break. Hand pile and burn (HP) all



brush. Prune trees up to 10 feet or no more than ½ the height of the tree.

MAS/PRUNE: This occurs with the proposed fuel break. Masticate brush (MAS) down to approximately 15 percent ground cover. Prune trees up to 10 feet or no more than ½ the height of the tree.

PCT/HP/PRUNE: This occurs with the proposed fuel break. Precommercially thin trees (PCT) less than 9" dbh to an average 20-foot crown spacing. Hand pile and burn remaining slash residue down to about 2 tons per acre. Prune trees up to 10 feet or no more than ½ the height of the tree.

MAS: Masticate (chop and shred) brush down to approximately 15 percent ground cover.

PCT/MAS: Precommercially thin trees less than 9" dbh from below resulting in approximately 100 trees per acre. Masticate slash and brush to approximately 15 percent ground cover.

PCT/MAS/PRUNE: This occurs with the proposed fuel break. Precommercially thin trees less than 9" dbh to an average 20-foot crown spacing. Masticate slash and brush to approximately 15 percent ground cover. Prune trees up to 10 feet or no more than ½ the height of the tree.

In addition, the following design criteria would be applied project wide:

- During thinning, species would be retained in the following descending order of preference: bigcone Douglas-fir, sugar pine, single-leaf pinyon pine, Jeffery pine, ponderosa pine, black oak, incense cedar, white fir, and canyon live oak.
- Fuel breaks would be constructed from 150 to 300 feet wide including that possibly constructed under the Wrightwood Project on the Angeles NF. Erosion control practices such as waterbarring will be required on portions of fuelbreaks with a slope greater than 20 percent to maintain soil quality standards.
- Treatments by ground-based equipment would generally occur on slopes under 35 percent with treatment occurring on small areas or short pitches up to 50 percent.
- A prescribed burn plan would be developed and approved prior to initiating any burning operation. A burn plan generally includes unit description, specific prescribed burn objectives, public notification procedures, coordination with other resource agencies (i.e. Air Quality Management District), hazard analysis, contingency plans, firing procedures, risk assessment, mitigation measures, estimated fire behavior, acceptable weather variables, and prescribed burn organization.
- Prescribed burning (jackpot burning and hand pile and burning) would be accomplished by applying low-intensity fire using hand-firing methods and should



restrict mortality to 10 percent or less in residual conifer stands. Burning would generally be done in the fall, winter and early spring.

- Where mastication occurs, chipped debris would not exceed two inches over 75% of treated area.
- Hand piles would be about 8 feet in diameter and 6 feet high and would be located away from residual trees to prevent crown and bole scorch.
- Fire control handlines would be constructed as needed to facilitate jackpot burning. Handlines would generally be cleared of all vegetation from 6 to 20 feet in width with 3 to 10 feet cleared to mineral soil. Handlines will be rehabilitated at the conclusion of the project by waterbarring and placement of slash on handlines. Handlines would be constructed in an undulating wave like pattern and not straight lines as opportunities exist.
- A fifty foot equipment exclusion zone shall be established along the ephemeral stream channel in the project area.
- Complete disposal of residues resulting from treatments would occur up to 400 feet from main travel routes and recreation areas.

Avoidance/Minimization Measures to minimize effects to Wildlife

Fuel Breaks

- Before establishing fuel-breaks consult with district wildlife staff. Wildlife concerns include: 1) Disturbance and direct mortality of sensitive species/species of concern - coordinate with District Wildlife Staff as a monitor may be assigned to look for/remove sensitive species along fuel break during implementation; 2) Rock outcrops – avoid mapped, flagged, and unmapped rock outcrops to minimize effects on sensitive reptile habitat; 3) Riparian habitats – riparian vegetation (e.g., sycamore, willow, alder, cottonwood, big leaf maple, and dogwood) that occurs outside of riparian buffer zones would not be removed.
- Coordinate with District Wildlife Staff if western end of fuelbreak mastication occurs in summer/fall months so that a biological monitor may be present to observe sheep response to this disturbance. Sheep bed down right in the area near the fuelbreak.

Hardwood, Conifer, And Mixed Hardwood/Conifer Stands (outside of fuel break)

- Brush Piles: Where possible, brush piles should be left as habitat. If brush piles need to be removed, they should be removed/burned as soon as possible after piling in order to minimize colonization by wildlife. Prior to removing/burning brush piles, disturb the piles of brush and pull them apart slightly to encourage animals to move out of the piles. When possible, light piles directionally to encourage wildlife to exit. When burning piles, do not burn wood rat nests, especially in spotted owl areas (Retain wood rat nests by raking fuels away from the perimeter).
- Snags and Logs: S14: Where available and within the capability of the site retain a minimum of six downed logs per acre (minimum 12 inches diameter and 120 total linear feet) and 10 to 15 hard snags per five acres (minimum 16 inches diameter at



breast height and 40 feet tall, or next largest available). Exception allowed in Wildland/Urban Interface Defense Zones, fuelbreaks, and where they pose a safety hazard.

- S17: In areas outside of Wildland/Urban Interface Defense Zones and fuelbreaks, retain soft snags and acorn storage trees unless they are a safety hazard, fire threat, or impediment operability.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Habitats

- S11: When occupied or suitable habitat for a threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate or sensitive (TEPCS) species is present on an ongoing or proposed project site, consider species guidance documents (see Forest Plan, Appendix H) to develop project-specific or activity-specific design criteria. This guidance is intended to provide a range of possible conservation measures that may be selectively applied during site-specific planning to avoid, minimize or mitigate negative long-term effects on threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate or sensitive species and habitat. Involve appropriate resource specialists in the identification of relevant design criteria.

*Applicable species guidance document: Conservation Strategy for the California Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) on the National Forests of Southern California.

- S18: Protect known active and inactive raptor nest areas. Extent of protection will be based on proposed management activities, human activities existing at the onset of nesting initiation, species, topography, vegetative cover, and other factors. When appropriate, a no-disturbance buffer around active nest sites will be required from nest-site selection to fledging.
- S19: Protect all spotted owl territories identified in the Statewide California Department of Fish and Game database (numbered owl sites) and new sites that meet the state criteria by maintaining or enhancing habitat conditions over the long-term to the greatest extent practicable while protecting life and property. Use management guidelines in the species conservation strategy (or subsequent species guidance document; see Forest Plan, Appendix H) to further evaluate protection needs for projects, uses and activities.
- S20: Maintain a limited operating period (LOP) prohibiting activities within approximately .25 miles of a California spotted owl nest site, or activity center where nest site is unknown, during the breeding season (February 1 through August 15), unless surveys confirm that the owls are not nesting. Follow the USDA Forest Service (1993, 1994 or subsequent) protocol to determine whether owls are nesting. The LOP does not apply to existing road and trail use and maintenance, use of existing developed recreation sites, or existing special-uses, such as recreation residence tracts. When evaluating the need to implement a limited operating period, site- and project-specific factors need to be considered (use species management strategy or subsequent guidance; see Appendix H).



General Wildlife Design Measures

- Abate OHV issues in visual analysis area
- Adhere to forest direction for annosus root disease prevention when conducting fuels treatment projects.
- Avoid use of heavy equipment and skidding of trees in streams, drainages, or riparian habitat.
- Avoid skidding logs across streams, drainages, or riparian areas.
- Limit the use of heavy equipment within 30 feet of downed logs, rocky outcrops (surface expressions of bedrock or small boulder piles), and brush piles.
- Limit habitat alteration within 30 feet of rocky outcrops or downed logs (e.g., leave logs in place, do not remove or disturb vegetation, duff, etc.).
- Avoid falling trees across rocky outcrops or downed logs.
- Do not place log decks within 50 feet or less of rocky outcrops. Prior to removal of logs from log decks, check the log piles for sensitive reptile species.
- Minimize mechanical disturbance of soils to reduce the impact of habitat manipulation on small mammal communities
- Implementation activities in areas of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitats will include oversight or coordination with wildlife staff. Coordination may include training of crews in: the identification sensitive species; avoidance of impacts to sensitive species (e.g., identification/avoidance of wildlife use/habitat elements, including nests, cavities, and woodpecker foraging holes); notification of the appropriate agencies (i.e., CADFG or USFWS) if a sensitive, threatened, or endangered species is encountered; and that individuals must not be picked up or removed without a permit.

Avoidance/Minimization Measures to minimize effects to Botanical Resources

- Known occurrences or those located during project implementation of sensitive plant species will be flagged and avoided. These areas may be buffered to prevent indirect impacts such as soil movement into the occurrences. Where flag/avoid is not possible, a botanist will work with the contract administrator or district project leader to minimize impacts by avoiding as many plants as possible where total avoidance is not possible.
- Burn piles will not be located on any sensitive plant occurrences and will have at least a 25-foot buffer from any occurrences.
- All equipment will be cleaned before entering the project area to prevent introduction or spread of non-native invasive plants.
- Any plant material (e.g. straw, mulch, seeds, etc.), if used, must be certified weed-free. A Forest Service botanist or biologist must approve seed mixes prior to application. Where possible local or on-site seed sources would be utilized.
- A botanist would be present during appropriate stages of project layout and implementation to ensure flagging is in place and prescribed mitigations are implemented correctly should they be needed.



- In areas of ongoing maintenance, all sensitive plant occurrences should be re-flagged prior to implementation of ground disturbing maintenance activities.

Avoidance/Minimization Measures to minimize effects to Visual Quality

Unit Design and Layout:

- A landscape architect would be consulted before layout and marking begins.
- Straight lines and geometric shapes would be minimized to blend units (including fuel breaks) to create free-form vegetative shapes that mimic natural patterns.
- Burned slash would be scattered on control lines to reduce the color contrast of the exposed soil.
- No boundary paint would be used parallel to system roads or trails. Trees would be marked on the backside from trails.

Immediate foreground (300 feet) of sensitivity level 1 road and trail corridors, developed recreation sites, and dwellings on private land (Lone Pine Canyon Road, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Blue Ridge Road 3N06.2, and ORV trail 3N06.2 are all sensitivity level 1 areas):

- Burn areas: Slash would be removed within 150 feet from sensitive areas. Slash would be piled and burned at 150 to 200 feet.
- After burning is complete, burn sites that are visible from the road, trail, developed site, or private dwelling would be covered with natural duff or wood chips (mulch) to minimize visibility of the burned area.
- Areas without burning: Slash would be removed within 150 feet from sensitive areas. In the 150- to 200-foot zone, slash would be lopped and scattered to 18" or less in depth.
- Masticated brush slash would not exceed 6" in depth.
- Stumps would be cut within 7" of the uphill side of the stump.
- Tree prune heights would not exceed 6 feet or half the tree height, whichever is shorter.
- Shrub islands of various shapes and size would be left in a random distribution to provide a natural appearance, while meeting fuel reduction objectives around private dwellings.
- Shrub islands of various shapes and sizes would be left in a random distribution to provide a natural appearance, while meeting fuel reduction objectives.
- Roads leading to landings would not be located perpendicular to sensitivity level 1 corridors to eliminate direct views into log landings from the highway when possible.
- No skid roads would be located parallel to system roads within 100 feet where practical.



Trails:

- Signs would be posted advising trail users when project activities are going to take place.
- Trails would be temporarily closed when project activities are taking place within the trail corridor, for the safety of recreationists.
- Project activities would not be performed on weekends in the trail corridor.
- Any damage to the trail from implementation of project activities would be rehabilitated.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT):

- Signs will be posted on the PCT to deter ORV use on the trail and on the closed temporary roads.
- Logging operations will not take place during the last two weeks of May and the first week of June of each logging season. This would eliminate effects on approximately 200 through-hikers on the trail.
- Interpretive signs will be placed in key locations to provide information to trail users about reducing the risk of fire and other project objectives.

Analysis to Support Categorical Exclusion

This proposal is consistent with categories of actions listed in the Forest Service NEPA Handbook (FSH) that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Specifically, this project includes actions detailed in FSH 1909.15, Chapter 31.2-10 Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire, not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres).

Extraordinary Circumstances

An analysis of resource conditions as listed in FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30.3 -2 finds that no adverse effects will result from the proposed action on these conditions and thus no extraordinary circumstances are present that would preclude the use of a categorical exclusion for the project. A summary of this analysis is presented in Table 2 (below).



Table 2. Proposed Action Resource Effects Summary Considered for Extraordinary Circumstances

Resource Condition	Applicability to the Project
a. Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.	The following determinations have been made for Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed (TEP) species as listed by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and for Forest Service Sensitive Species as listed by the Regional Forester. For more detailed information see the BA/BE for fisheries and wildlife species, and the BA/BE for plant species in the project file: <u>TEP Wildlife Species:</u> There will be no effects to Threatened, Endangered, or Proposed species or their habitats or proposed critical habitats as listed by the ESA. <u>Sensitive Wildlife Species:</u> Implementation of the proposed action may affect individuals, but is not likely to result in a trend toward Federal listing of: the large-blotched ensatina, San Gabriel Mountain slender salamander, California legless lizard, San Diego horned lizard, San Bernardino ringneck snake, San Bernardino mountain kingsnake, turkey vulture, golden eagle, goshawk, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, purple martin, tree swallow, American badger, mountain lion, San Gabriel population Nelson's bighorn sheep, Lewis woodpecker, Townsend's big-eared bat, and the pallid bat. <u>TEP Plant Species:</u> There will be no effects to Threatened, Endangered, or Proposed plant species or their habitats or proposed critical habitats as listed by the ESA. <u>Sensitive Plant Species:</u> Implementation of the proposed action as described is not likely to result in a trend toward Federal listing of <i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>antonius</i>.
b. Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.	The project will result in no loss of wetlands or alter the current floodplain because there will be no harvesting in wetlands or floodplains. The project area is not in a municipal watershed. See the hydrology specialist report in the project file for more information.
c. Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas.	The project is not located within a wilderness, wilderness study area, or national recreation area. The project does affect the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The proposed fuel break will modify the view shed and recreation experience along the trail and short term disruption to users may occur. However, these changes are geographically and temporally limited and are consistent with management direction of the trail.
d. Inventoried roadless areas.	The project is not located within an inventoried roadless area and will have no effect on any inventoried roadless area.



e. Research natural areas.	The project area is not located within any research natural area.
f. American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites.	No known cultural resources will be affected. See the heritage specialist report in the project file for more information.
g. Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.	No known cultural resources will be affected. See the heritage specialist report in the project file for more information.

Further, the effects on the quality of the human environment are not individually or cumulatively significant, nor are they likely to be highly controversial; therefore, the action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment.

Public Involvement

The Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests have held a series of public meetings (10/20/2003, 10/21/2003, 2/10/2004, 4/17/2004) in the Wrightwood Community regarding the Wrightwood and Boundary Ridge Projects. Additionally, District Ranger Garcia, members of his staff, and members of the interdisciplinary team that developed this proposal have regularly attended Wrightwood Fire Safe Council meetings. Maps of the proposals were displayed during Wrightwood Fire Awareness days in 2004 and 2005. Members of the interdisciplinary team met with local residents to discuss concerns and ideas regarding the proposal and then modified the proposal to address their concerns. Working with the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council, the interdisciplinary team developed a plan of potential treatments that could occur on private lands to augment projects proposed on National Forest System lands. This plan included treatment prescriptions with maps.

On July 23, 2004, the proposed action was mailed to 3,300 people, including all mailbox holders in Wrightwood. The proposed action and maps were posted at the following public locations: San Bernardino County Library - Wrightwood Branch; the Kiosk at Mountain Hardware – Wrightwood CA; Wrightwood Community Building; Big Pines Visitor Center; and the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District Office. Additionally, the proposed action and maps were posted on the Angeles National Forest and Wrightwood Fire Safe Council websites. The Angeles National Forest released a news release regarding the project to appropriate news organizations. Ten responses were received on the proposal and these were used to enhance the proposed action.

Findings Related to Other Laws and Regulations:

The project shall be conducted consistent with applicable land and resource management plans as required by the National Forest Management Act (FSM 1922.41 and FSH 1909.12). This project meets applicable San Bernardino Forest Plan standards and guidelines (2005).



The project complies with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA; amended 1976, 1980, and 1992).

Review and Appeal Opportunities

Pursuant to 36 CFR 215 regulations, this project is subject to review and appeal.

