



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Los Angeles River  
Ranger District

12371 N. Little Tujunga Cyn. RD  
San Fernando, CA 91342  
818-899-1900 Voice  
626-447-8992 TTY

---

File Code: 5150

Date: June 12, 2007

Dear Interested Party:

The Los Angeles River Ranger District (LARRD) of the Angeles National Forest is conducting an environmental analysis under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate a fuels reduction project in the Lopez and Kagel Canyon areas. We are soliciting public input of the issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis. Initiation of this fuels reduction project is proposed to begin in FY 2008 and involves vegetation treatments on 3800 acres. The project would take place from the Little Tujunga Canyon road west to the Lopez Canyon road, and from the north end of Kagel Canyon road south to the U.S. Forest boundary.

This project will involve collaboration with the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles and private land owners in the Kagel and Lopez Canyon areas. The legal description of the proposed project is: T.2 N., R.14 W., Sections 5 and 6. T.2 N., R.15 W., Section 1. T.3 N., R.14 W. Sections 28,29,30,31,32,33. T.3 N., R.15 W., Section 36. See enclosed map.

The purpose of this project is to mitigate the build up of hazardous fuels in the Little Tujunga, Lopez and Kagel Canyon areas and adjacent private land areas. This project will provide for increased defensible space and firefighter safety; also to reduce flame heights and radiant heat. This project is a direct result of the Angeles National Forest Fireshed Assessment Workshop of September 2005. A Fireshed Assessment is an analytical process that uses state-of-the-art computer modeling to design and test hazardous fuels treatment projects on large areas of land ("firesheds") before doing any actual treatment on the ground. As one of the most heavily used urban forests in the nation, the Angeles National Forest will be working in partnership with local communities, and private land owners to develop and integrate fuels treatments across multiple ownerships, to better protect communities and reduce the potential for catastrophic fires. The assessment is a collaborative process that integrates the wildfire protection planning efforts of public and private landowners, so that they complement one another.

Emphasis will be on the reduction of ladder fuels and periodic reduction of surface fuels. The vegetation located approximately 300' on the west side of the Little Tujunga canyon road, the east side of Lopez canyon, and both sides of the Kagel canyon road will be treated. The vegetation within 300 feet of private land will also be treated. The vegetation within the first 50 feet will be reduced to 4" or less in height. The vegetation within 50' to 150' will be reduced to no more than 25% standing vegetation above 4" in height. The areas 150' to 300' from the center line will be thinned to no more than 50% standing vegetation above 4" in height. The larger

standing brush will be pruned to a single trunk and branches pruned up to half the existing height. Tree branches will be pruned up to 10' or half the height. The Forest Service Little Tujunga Station will be incorporated into the project with thinning, pruning and hazard fuel reduction. Treatments will be accomplished by hand crews using chainsaws and hand tools. Piled brush will be chipped or burned in place. A masticator may be used in portions of the project area depending on steepness of slope. Brush may also be crushed by a dozer pulling a disc. Brush in some areas may be reduced by the use of prescribed fire.

Project activities will be designed to minimize soil disturbance to the extent practical, consistent with project objectives. Strategies and guidelines from the 2005 Forest Plan will be implemented. This includes the Noxious Weed Management Strategy for Southern California found in Appendix M, Part 3, page 121 of the Forest Plan.

A Biological Assessment and Evaluation (BA/BE) will be completed on the proposed project. Any recommended mitigations from the BA/BE will be implemented.

An Archeological study will be conducted for the project area and any protection measures will be implemented.

The proposed action is consistent with Strategy Fire 5, in part 2, page 130 of the Forest Plan. A portion of the strategy states to develop a plan to minimize propagation of invasive nonnative species during fuels management activities. The fuels treatment plan will be developed and approved by the Forest botanist.

Comments should be submitted in writing and will be accepted until July 12, 2007. Issues and concerns should be addressed to:

Mike McIntyre, District Ranger  
Los Angeles River Ranger District  
12371 N. Little Tujunga Canyon Road  
San Fernando, CA 91342

Comments may also be submitted via FAX to (818) 896-6727 or electronically to [mmcintyre@fs.fed.us](mailto:mmcintyre@fs.fed.us). All comments received become a part of the project record and are available for public review. Upon completion of the environmental analysis, an opportunity to comment will be provided to those who have previously expressed an interest in these types of projects and those who respond to the scoping letter.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please contact Scott Lowden or me at (818) 899-1900.

Sincerely,

MIKE MCINTYRE  
District Ranger