



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cleveland National
Forest

Descanso Ranger District
3348 Alpine Blvd.
Alpine, CA 91901-3923
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CRS 1-800-735-2922

File Code: 5150/1950

Date: June 15, 2012

Dear Interested Individuals, Organizations and Agencies:

You have been contacted in the past about the Mount Laguna and Pine Valley Community Protection Project and Healthy Forest Restoration Project proposed by us and possibly commented on the project during scoping. The Environmental Assessment has been completed and can be downloaded from the Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=33247>. Hard copies are available upon request.

The project is being proposed under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) authority. The preferred alternative (alternative 2) would reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 5,554 acres of national forest lands located on the Descanso Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest. The project is divided into two distinct areas (Pine Valley and Mount Laguna) and all treatments are proposed within Wildland Urban Interface zones. Treatment methods include hand thinning, piling, mastication, and prescribed burning (piling and broadcast burning). The project would have a 10-year implementation period. The legal description includes portions of T14S, R5E; T15S, R5E; and, T15S, R4E, SBM. I have decided to make two decisions with this project: one specific to the area in and around Mount Laguna and another specific to the area in and around Pine Valley. These two areas were analyzed together to maximize efficiency; they are not connected actions where one cannot occur without the other being implemented.

Instead of an appeal period, there will be an objection process before the two decisions can be made (reference 36 CFR 218). In order to be eligible to file an objection, specific written comments related to the project needed to be submitted during scoping. Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual; objections received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only. If an objection is submitted on behalf of a number of individuals or organizations, each individual or organization listed must meet the eligibility requirement of having previously submitted comments on the project

The objection must contain at a minimum, a sufficient narrative description of those aspects of the proposed project objected to, specific issues related to the project, and suggested remedies which would resolve the objection (36 CFR 218.8(c)(5)). Incorporation of documents by reference in the objection is permitted only as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b). Minimum filing content requirements of an objection by individuals or organizations (36 CFR 218.8(c.)) include: 1) Objector's name and address with a telephone number, if available; 2) Signature or other verification of identity upon request. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic objections. 3) For objections with multiple names or multiple organizations, identification of the lead Objector is required. Verification of the identity of the lead Objector shall be provided on request. 4) The project name (Mount Laguna and Pine Valley Community Protection and Health Forest Restoration Project) and title of the Responsible Official (myself, Donn Christiansen), and the name of the National Forest



and/or Ranger District (Descano Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest) on which the proposed project will be implemented.

Written, facsimile (fax), hand-delivered, and electronic objections concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice in *The San Diego Union Tribune*. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by other sources. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the objection period beyond 30 days. In order to retain your administrative objection rights under HFRA, you must provide timely, substantive written, or electronic objections that are postmarked or received within the 30-day period.

It is the responsibility of objectors to ensure that their objection is received in a timely manner. The Reviewing Officer is William Metz, Cleveland Forest Supervisor, 10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92127; fax: (858) 673-6192. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf) and Word (.docx) and emailed to wmetz@fs.fed.us, using subject: Mount Laguna/Pine Valley Project objection.

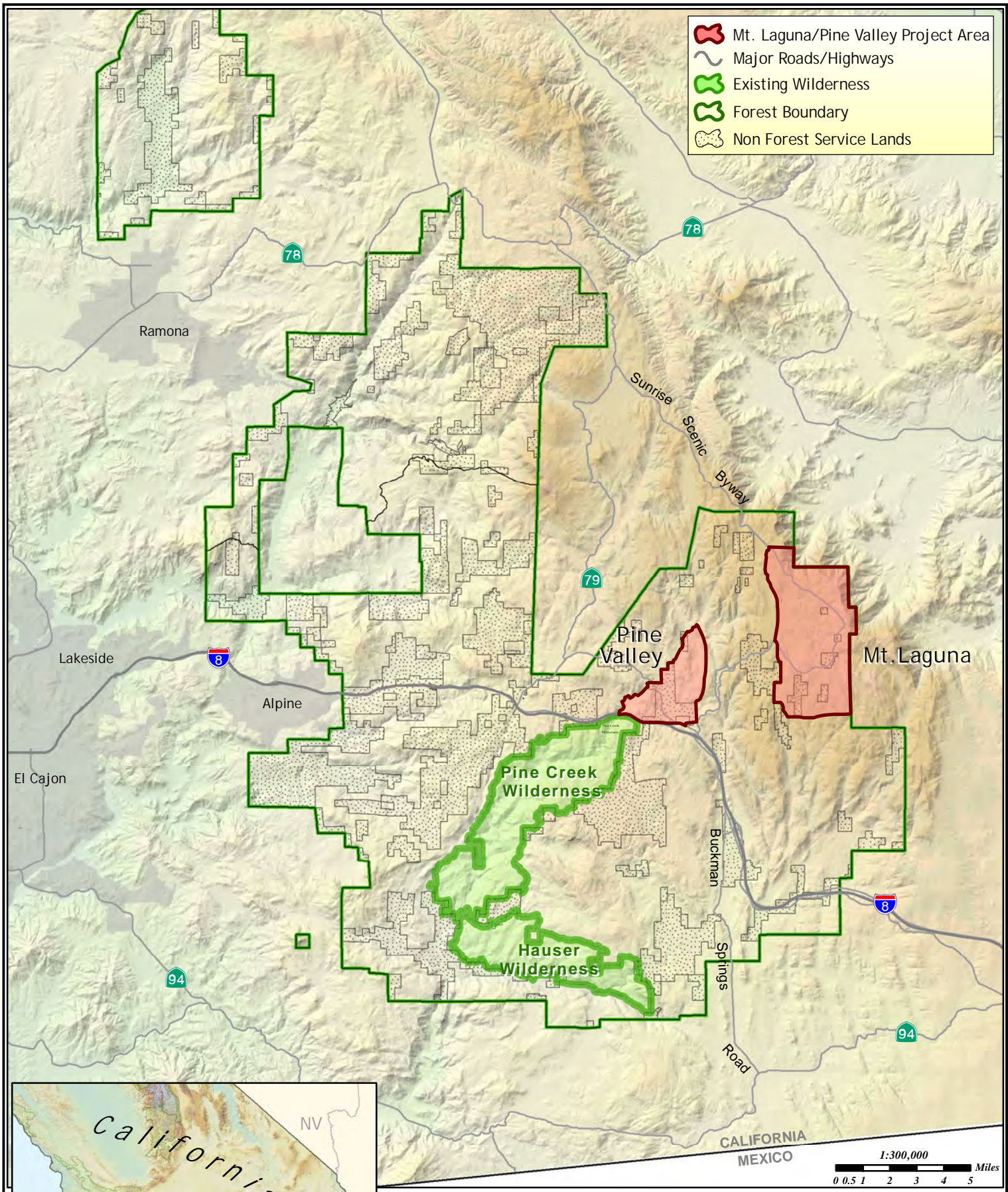
When the objection-filing period has ended and responses have been made to all objections, I can make the decisions on the proposed project. When no timely objections are filed, the two decisions can be made on the 5th business day following the close of the filing period (36 CFR 218.12).

For more information on how this objection process works and the requirements, or if you have questions about the project or environmental assessment, contact Project Leader Michael Tucker by calling this office. If you would like to receive a copy of one or both of the decisions, please let Michael know and he will add you to the mailing lists. Thank you for your interested in the management of the District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donn Christiansen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DONN CHRISTIANSEN
District Ranger



Mount Laguna and Pine Valley Community Defense & Healthy Forest Restoration Project
 Vicinity Map
Descanso Ranger District
 Cleveland National Forest

