

File Code: 1950/2520

Date: MAR 14 2013

Dear Interested Party,

The Western Divide Ranger District in the Sequoia National Forest is asking for public comments on the enclosed draft decision memo for the Long Meadow Restoration Project pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6.

The Long Meadow Restoration Project, located in the Giant Sequoia National Monument, encompasses the northwest portion of Long Meadow and is located in Township 22 South, Range 31 East, Sections 25 and 36, MDB&M. The proposed action is to repair a large headcut, which has become established at the northern end of Long Meadow. There are five activities, described in detail in the draft decision memo, which proposes to repair the headcut and restore the meadow. These proposed activities are:

- Install plug structures.
- Install rock and vegetation (also known as a valley grade control structure).
- Plant various native riparian species in the meadow, including willows and sod.
- Use an existing access road during the implementation of the project.
- Install a temporary fence.

This decision complies with the Monument Plan (USDA 2012). The project was designed in conformance with and contributes to achieving strategies and objectives of the Monument Plan.

You are receiving this notice because you requested a copy or because it is believed you may have an active interest in this project. Additional project information is available for review by accessing the Forest internet website at:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/sequoia/landmanagement/projects>.

The Forest Service is proposing to categorically exclude this project from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. Please provide any substantive comments you might have regarding this proposal. Substantive comments are those that are within the scope of the project and the decision to be made; are specific to the project activities and the project area; and have a direct relationship to the proposed actions.

This comment period is being provided pursuant to the March 19, 2012, order issued by the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Case No. CV F11-679 LJO DLB. Only those who provide comment during this comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR 215. Any individual or representative from an organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request in order to maintain appeal eligibility.



The intent of this comment period is to provide those interested in or affected by this project an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a notice in the Porterville Recorder and the Bakersfield Californian. The publication date in the newspaper of record (Porterville Recorder) 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.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, are considered part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

Please submit substantive comments to the following address at the Western Divide Ranger District Office:

Richard Stevens
Western Divide Ranger District
32588 Highway 190
Springville, CA 93265

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to comments-pacificsouthwest-sequoia-tule-river-hotspings@fs.fed.us with Subject: **Long Mdw**. 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. Please include hard copies or internet links to any references to which you refer. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). A fax can be sent to (559)-539-2067 with **Long Mdw** clearly noted in the fax.

The decision for this project is expected to be made in the spring of 2013. The decision will be mailed to those who have submitted comments and to those who have requested to be added to the project mailing list. If you have any questions, please direct them to Robin Galloway at (559) 539-2607, extension 280, or e-mail: rgalloway@fs.fed.us.

We appreciate your interest in the management of the Western Divide Ranger District.

Sincerely,



RICHARD STEVENS
District Ranger

Enclosure