



File Code: 1950-1/7730-4

Date: August 7, 2009

SCOPING NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

PROPOSED PAVING PROJECT IN MADERA CANYON

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Coronado National Forest:

I am writing today to let you know about a proposed road and parking lot maintenance project in Madera Canyon on the Nogales Ranger District. The project area is in the Santa Rita Mountains in Sections 11, Township 20 South, Range 14 East; and Sections 1, 2, and 35, Township 19 South, Range 14 East, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona. The Forest proposes to repair and maintain sections of three National Forest System roads (NFSR) roads; recreation-site access roads; and parking lots adjacent to these roads (see enclosed map).

We are about to begin a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the proposed action by defining the scope of the impacts analysis. During scoping, we ask the public to help us identify issues and concerns related to the proposed action. Public input is vital because it is integrated into our environmental impacts analyses and may be used in the development of mitigation and alternatives to the proposed action. Information on how you can comment on this proposal or obtain further information is provided below.

BACKGROUND

The proposed action is a routine road and parking lot maintenance project that would improve the condition of user facilities in the Madera Canyon recreation area. Funding for the project is authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-5).

PROPOSED ACTION

The Forest proposes to conduct activities to repair and maintain sections of NFSRs 70, 70A, and 4075, as well as recreation site access roads and parking lots adjacent to these roads. Implementation is expected to begin in late 2009.

Primary project activities would include the following:

- Milling (grinding to a gravel consistency) the existing road pavement surface, reshaping and compacting the millings, and applying new hot-mix asphaltic pavement on those millings on Madera Canyon Road (NFSR 70) from the junction of the road to Bog Springs Campground to the beginning of the new pavement located at the Wrightson Picnic Ground.
- Placing and compacting a two-foot-wide, aggregate base, coarse shoulder (dense-graded



gravel) on each side of the new pavement in areas documented as devoid of cultural or biological resources and where topography allows.

Secondary project activities would include placing and compacting imported, aggregate base, coarse material and a subsequent application of new hot-mix asphaltic pavement to the Bog Springs Campground road (NFSR 70A) and loop (which was paved until approximately 10 years ago). All work would be confined to the previously disturbed roadway.

Additional project work may include placing and compacting imported, aggregate base, coarse material on the road to the Kent Springs House (NFSR 4075). All work would be confined to the previously disturbed roadway.

Standard road maintenance drainage tasks, such as machine cleaning drainage pipe inlets and outlets, clearing lead-out ditches and borrow-ditches, and removing cut-slope sloughed material, would be performed by heavy equipment on and along these roads.

Additional project work may include, as necessary, pavement preservation treatments, such as machine sweeping, crack-routing, crack-sealing, fog-seal, and slurry-seal or chip-seal application. Re-striping of roads may be necessary at the following currently paved recreation sites within Madera Canyon recreation area: Entrance Station access road, Proctor Parking, Whitehouse Picnic Area, Madera Trailhead Picnic Area, and Mt. Wrightson Picnic Area and Trailhead.

The proposed road length of Madera Canyon Road to be repaired and maintained is approximately 1.3 miles, and the average proposed paved road width is approximately 18 feet. The proposed road length of Bog Springs Campground Road is 0.8 miles, with a proposed paving width between 12 to 20 feet. Pavement preservation activities would affect an area of less than five acres. The total length of imported aggregate placement on the Kent Springs House Road is approximately 0.4 miles.

Recreational users and residents in the project area would be notified of the time and locations of paving activity and other road work prior to implementation.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

The Coronado National Forest values public input during the NEPA review process. Your comments about this proposal may be submitted to us in writing by U.S. mail, facsimile, or hand-delivery; electronically by email; and by telephone or in person at the District office¹. To be most useful in our NEPA review, comments should be submitted to us within 30 calendar days following your receipt of this notice.

¹ *Comments and personal information associated with them, such as names and addresses, become part of the Administrative Record of this NEPA review. This information may be made available to a third-party upon request under the authority of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Your personal information is protected by the Privacy Act. If you do not want it to be released under the FOIA, you may choose not to include it with your comments. Or, you may request an exemption from FOIA with your comment submittal. If so, you will be informed by the Forest Service as to whether or not your request qualifies for an exemption. If it does not, you may resubmit your comments without personal information or withhold them altogether.*

Our mailing address is Nogales Ranger District, 303 Old Tucson Road, Nogales, AZ 85621. Facsimiles may be sent to (520) 281-2396. Please include your full name and address and project title (Madera Canyon Paving) with your comments. Electronic (email) comments may be submitted to us at comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us. Please submit email comments in any of the following ways: text of your email, in a Microsoft Word (.doc) attachment, or in rich-text format (.rtf). Please include "Madera Canyon Paving" in the subject line.

Oral comments may be provided by telephoning me at (520) 761-6002 or by making a personal visit to the Nogales District Office.

For additional information about this project, please contact me at the number above or at kellest@fs.fed.us. Questions about the NEPA review process may be directed to Forest NEPA Coordinator Andrea W. Campbell at (520) 388-8352 or awcampbell@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the activities of the Coronado National Forest.

Sincerely,

/S/ KENT C. ELLETT

KENT C. ELLETT
District Ranger

Enclosure: MAP OF PROJECT AREA