

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST SUPERVISOR'S ORDER NO. 01-08-04

CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACT ANALYSIS

I. PROPOSED ACTION

Issuance of a Forest Order authorizing a temporary closure of the Ridge Route area on the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers District of the Angeles National Forest. The area affected is depicted on the map attached to the Closure Order. The closure will be in effect from December 18, 2008 through December 17, 2009, and will address concerns related to the protection of the public in the area. Hikers and OHV users of the area will be re-routed around the closed area.

II. DURATION

Beginning December 18, 2008 and ending on December 17, 2009.

III. DATA GATHERING AND STUDIES

An emergency situation was identified as existing as a result of prolonged and intense rainfall in 2005 that led to numerous landslides and pipeline ruptures in the proposed closure area. The area was temporarily closed from June 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 (Forest Order No. 01-05-05, signed by Jody Noiron on June 1, 2005) for temporary and permanent repairs.

Temporary services were accomplished and the permanent repairs were developed based on the data available. With the implementation of the permanent repair actions it was found that the subsurface material in the area was actively shifting. This required reengineering of the project resulting in an expansion of needed replacement and reconstruction of the utility infrastructure.

The evaluation of the complexity of each project and the number of projects has determined a need of a year of high risk construction. The hazards and complexity of the operations makes it necessary to keep the area closed while construction crews complete the work. Types of hazards include but are not limited to open trenching, high voltage lines, large construction equipment and temporary structures. Public use of this area, as well as the roads and trails, would continue to present serious hazard to their safety and would further compromise the condition of these pipelines, and their maintenance and operation.

Closure of this area is necessary as a precautionary measure to reduce the potential for human/operations interaction. Specifically, humans can easily access active construction sites and equipment as well as create hazards for the authorized personnel working in the area.

Human Resources

1. Characteristics of the uses of the Angeles National Forest

The Forest is located adjacent to the Los Angeles metropolitan area and is within a two-hour drive for more than ten million people. The Forest comprises more than one-quarter of the land area available for outdoor recreation in Los Angeles County. Annual use of the Forest exceeds 5 million visits per year.

The largest single recreational use of the Forest is characterized as day use. That is, persons entering the Forest for a recreation visit that does not include an overnight stay.

Recreation activity groups include; skiers, snowplayers, rock climbers, anglers, boaters, equestrians, hikers, off-highway vehicle users, picnickers, sightseers, water players and persons participating in special events.

The Forest is a year-round destination, with winter snow crowds rivaling peak summer use.

The primary use of the evaluation area is vehicular touring.

2. Work Environment/Characteristics

The proposed action would have no effect on the size, number or characteristics of the existing or potential workforce.

3. Attitudes, beliefs and values

The effect of the proposed action on Forest users will not cause significant changes in traditional behavior patterns of persons who use the proposed closure area. Hikers can be rerouted to use the Pacific Crest Trail. OHV touring interests can be directed to alternative Forest Service roads.

4. Social Organization

The proposed action will have no effect on community cohesion or stability. The diverse nature and immensity of the Southern California "community" is frequently reminded of the potential of harm to endangered species and their critical habitat.

IV. MITIGATION

Use restrictions will be posted along access routes into the Forest and at selected sites which serve as launch points for climbing and hiking. The signing will consist of bi-lingual and/or universal messages.

Visitors whose values and traditions involve the use of the closure area will be directed elsewhere by Forest Service personnel.

ALTERNATIVES

Only two alternatives are addressed in this CRIA. They are:

1. No Action
2. Implement a temporary closure of the area.

V. IMPACT ANALYSIS

No Action Alternative

1. Disruption of utilities services to the greater Los Angeles Basin non-compliance with special use authorities.
2. Increased risk of public injury and resource damage.

Proposed Alternative

1. Forest Service in compliance with applicable special uses authorities and Angeles National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan direction.
2. Reduced risk of general public injury.

V. DECISION

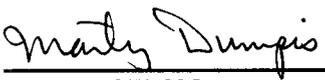
It is my decision that implementation of the proposed action will not violate the civil rights of individuals or of user groups who utilize the Angeles National Forest.

My decision is based on the following:

1. The proposed action is consistent with the guidelines in the Angeles National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan regarding uses in the area.
2. The proposed action is consistent with Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations Sub-part B, Section 261.50(e)(1) which allows Forest Supervisors to exempt specified persons from prohibitions contained in an Order.
3. The proposed action will reduce the risk of human injury.
4. The proposed action will expedite the repair/reconstruction of critical public services infrastructure.
5. The proposed action will have equal impact on all visitors and recreationists utilizing the Forest.

For the reasons listed above, adverse impacts to all users of the Forest are estimated to be minimal.

Dated this 16th day of December, 2008.

(for) 

JODY NOIRON
Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest