

Crystal Lake Campground Hazardous Tree Cutting Project Proposal

Proposed Project Description

The San Gabriel River Ranger District has determined a need for hazard tree removal at the Crystal Lake campground (see **Map 1, and Figure 1**). There are approximately 200 large diameter trees (28 inches and up) that have been killed by drought, bark beetles, and fire (see **Figure 2**). The proposed removal of trees will assist in protecting human life, property, and the recreation experience from the danger of falling trees and/or branches. The removal will also decrease the fire hazard, as well as the bark beetle susceptibility that would eventually be a nuisance for live trees in the area. The management objectives are to remove obvious hazardous biomass and to increase spacing between healthy trees. Objectives also include maintaining current wildlife habitat suitability and enhancing aesthetic values.

Project Design

Approximately 3,000 cords (1 cord is 4ft wide, 4ft high, and 8ft long) of wood throughout a 900 acre area within the campground will be removed. Hazard tree removal work consists of cutting, skidding (dragging of logs), chipping and removal of all designated materials. Cutting, skidding, chipping and removal shall be performed in a manner that does not damage residual trees, structures, or improvements. The removal of these hazard trees will produce slash (woody debris). This material will be reduced by chipping and then lopping/scattering small woody debris for nutrient conservation, and lopping/scattering large material for campground firewood. All stumps will be cut to a 6-inch height and treated with Sporax®. The application of Sporax® will prevent annosus root rot.

The project will be carried out largely by contract workers, but fire crews may be used to clear underbrush or thin out unhealthy trees. The project may be divided into two portions, Deer Flats (Group Campground) and Crystal Lake (Main Campground). Because the site is so heavily used, work may have to be graduated, starting with the main campground and then moving to the group campground as weather conditions become more conducive to family-oriented recreation.

Project Containment

Designated slash material shall not remain on the ground for more than 21 days. Removal shall include all associated tops, limbs and trunks, and the thinning and release of understory where necessary. Many of the activities will require, but are not limited to, the construction or designation of skid trails and/or landings. The use of chainsaws, hand tools, and heavy (rubber-tired) equipment will be allowed anywhere use is needed (all things necessary, needed or similar terms are at the discretion of the USFS).

Additional Information

The hazard tree removal involves approximately 200 trees and also whatever understory, fuel reduction, mistletoe thinning, etc. that falls into the preventive thinning category.

- The site will be replanted randomly throughout a 900 acre area, There is no way to provide a specific number of replanted trees due to the site being so fragmented. Trees that will be replanted will include canyon live oak, sugar pine, ponderosa pine, Jeffrey Pine, Coulter pine, and big cone Douglas-fir.

- Woody material will be piled up after the thinning process. No more than five acres within the project area will be covered with debris piles. Piles may be burned to remove this material from the site.
- Up to 900 acres will have understory treatment and mistletoe removal. Understory treatment may involve understory burning.
- Up to 2 acres directly adjacent to the Crystal Lake fire station will be decked with logs.

The Forest would appreciate input into the design of the project before decisions are final. Decisions are likely to be made under authorities for projects to be “categorically excluded” from documentation in an EA or EIS. The Responsible Official for this project is Marty Dumpis, District Ranger.

The Angeles National Forest would appreciate any comments you would like to submit regarding the implementation of this project. Please send your comments on this project to us by April 28, 2004.

Please direct your comment letters to:

Jamahl Butler
Angeles National Forest, San Gabriel River Ranger District
110 N. Wabash Avenue
Glendora, CA 91741

e-mail nbutler@fs.fed.us