



File Code: 2720; 2300
Date: September 2, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

The Los Padres National Forest is initiating an environmental analysis to re-issue a campground concessionaire special use permit for operating and administering government owned developed recreation facilities. The Forest Service is requesting comments on the proposed action. This scoping period provides an opportunity for those interested in or affected by the proposal to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the responsible official.

BACKGROUND /PURPOSE AND NEED

Concessionaire management of recreation facilities has been in place on the Los Padres National Forest since 1995. Forest Service recreation sites managed by concessionaires are campgrounds, day use areas, and trailheads.

The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate re-issuing a special use permit for operating the recreation facilities. The Los Padres currently has six separate concessionaire special use permits and all of them are expiring. Concession permit operation of government-owned facilities is authorized by Section 7 of the Granger-Thye Act, 16 U.S.C. 580d. This activity is consistent with the Land Management Plan/Los Padres National Forest Strategy REC 3: Maintain partnerships with business who operate and maintain existing recreation facilities under the concession program to meet the needs of visitor demands.

PROPOSED ACTION

The special use permit will allow the concessionaire to provide public service in the operation and maintenance of government furnished recreation facilities as directed by the Forest Service. The context of the special use permit is operational and administrative and does not provide authorization for any ground disturbing activities, changes, or physical alterations to the recreation sites. The scope of operation and capacity of the recreation facilities would not change by this action. Any ground disturbing activities will be evaluated on an individual case by case project bases.

The proposed action would move all the concession operated sites under one special use permit. An additional number of sites not currently under concession management are proposed for inclusion in the new permit. See Table 1 for a list of recreation sites.

The proposed action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if a proposed action fits within a category listed in 36 CFR 220.6, and if there are no extraordinary circumstances. The preliminary assessment indicates there are no potential effects that result in extraordinary



circumstances, and the proposal fits with the following category: repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries. (36CFR 220.6(e)(15).

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

The Forest Service is requesting comments, along with supporting reasons that the responsible official should consider in reaching a decision. Please submit comments by September 30, 2016. Comments may be submitted to:

Los Padres National Forest, Supervisor's Office
Attn: Jeff Bensen
6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117

Comments may be submitted by FAX [805-961-5729] or by hand-delivery to the Supervisor's Office at the address shown above, during normal business hours (Monday-Friday mornings 8:00am-12:00pm and afternoons 1:00pm-4:30pm). Oral comments must be provided at the Supervisor's Office, in person, or via telephone at 805-961-5744 during normal business hours. Electronic comments, in acceptable [plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf) or Word (.doc)] formats, may be submitted to: comments-pacificsouthwest-los-padres@fs.fed.us. If submitting comments electronically, please include the words "Concessionaire Special Use Permit" in the e-mail subject line.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be 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.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the management of your national forest.

Sincerely,



ROBERT BAIRD
Forest Supervisor

Table 1.	
The following recreation sites are included in this action	
Monterey Ranger District (16 sites)	
1. Arroyo Seco Family Campground	9. Mill Creek Day Use Area
2. Arroyo Seco Group Campground	10. Pfeiffer Beach Day Use Area
3. Arroyo Seco Day Use Area	11. Sand Dollar Day Use Area
4. Bottcher's Gap Campground	12. Willow Creek Day Use Area
5. Kirk Creek Campground	13. China Camp Campground*
6. Nacimiento Campground	14. White Oaks Campground*
7. Plaskett Creek Family & Group Campground	15. Escondido Campground*
8. Ponderosa Campground	16. Memorial Park Campground*
Santa Lucia Ranger District (7 sites)	
Cerro Alto Campground	5. La Panza Campground*
Davy Brown Campground*	6. Navajo Flat Campground/OHV Staging Area*
Figueroa Campground*	7. Turkey Flat OHV Staging Area/Day Use*
Nira Campground*	
Santa Barbara Ranger District (13 sites)	
1. Fremont Campground	8. Live Oak Day Use Area
2. Los Prietos Campground	9. Lower Oso Day Use Area
3. Sage Hill Group CG & Aliso Trailhead	10. Red Rock Day Use Area
4. Fremont Campground	11. Sandstone Day Use Area
5. Upper Oso Campground	12. White Rock Day Use Area
6. Falls Day Use Area	13. Red Rock Trailhead
7. First Crossing Day Use Area	
Ojai Ranger District (6 sites)	
1. Holiday Group Campground	4. Reyes Peak Campground*
2. Wheeler Gorge Campground	Rose Valley Campground*
3. Pine Mountain Campground*	6. Middle Lion Campground*
Mt. Pinos Ranger District (6 sites)	
1. McGill Family & Group CG	4. Reyes Creek Campground*
2. Mt. Pinos Campground	5. Campo Alto Campground*
3. Ballinger Campground*	6. Chuchupate Campground*
*Recreation facilities proposed for addition to concessionaire special use permit	

