

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
Sand Bar Flat Burn (23977)

Stanislaus National Forest
Summit Ranger District
Tuolumne County, CA

The Forest Service is seeking comment on a draft Decision Memo for the Sand Bar Flat Burn project. The proposed action would reduce fuels hazards in the area located north of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River and approximately one half mile west of the Spring Gap Powerhouse.

The Forest Service made a preliminary assessment that this proposal falls within a category of actions listed in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement and there are no extraordinary circumstances that would preclude use of the category FSH 1909.15, 31.2 (6), "Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction."

The draft Decision Memo is available by request from the Summit Ranger Station, #1 Pinecrest Lake Road, Pinecrest, CA 95364; or, on-line at www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/projects.

This comment period is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. This comment period is being provided pursuant to the October 19, 2005 order issued by the US District Court for the Eastern District of California in Case No. CIV F-03-6386JKS.

The Forest Service will accept written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments on this proposal for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the Union Democrat. The publication date in this newspaper of record 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 may be submitted to Summit Ranger District; **Attn: Sand Bar**; #1 Pinecrest Lake Road, Pinecrest, CA 96364; (209)965-3434. Comments may be submitted by FAX [209-965-3372] or by hand-delivery to the address shown above, during normal business hours (Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm). Oral comments must be provided at the District Ranger's office during normal business hours via telephone [(209) 965-3434 ext. 5317] or in person.

Electronic comments, in acceptable [plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf) or Word (.doc)] formats, may be submitted to comments-pacificsouthwest-stanislaus-summit@fs.fed.us with **Subject: Sand Bar**. For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgment from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgment of the receipt of the comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means [36 CFR 215.6(a)(4)(iii)]. Names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action, and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who only submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215.

In accordance with the April 24, 2006 order issued by the US District Court for the Missoula Division of the District of Montana in Case No. CV 03-119-M-DWM, only those individuals and organizations who provide comments during the comment period are eligible to appeal [36 CFR 215.11(a), 1993 version]. Each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

For additional information regarding this proposal, contact: Linda Johnstone; #1 Pinecrest Lake Road, Pinecrest, CA 93364; 209-965-3434 ext. 5314.