



File Code: 2600

Date: April 26, 2010

Subject: Extended Parking Area for Mountain High East

To: Wilburn Blount, District Ranger Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District

This memo is in response to the proposal to allow a temporary parking area at the west end of the parking lot at Mountain High's East Resort. The location for the proposed gates is T3N, R8W, SE of Section 2 (Mount San Antonio Quad) of the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District, Angeles National Forest (Figure 1).

The proposal is to allow approximately 0.8 acres of land to the west of the permitted parking area to be used for additional, overflow parking to accommodate an estimated 70 parked vehicles (Figure 2). During peak-use periods, the existing parking lots fill, and vehicles must park along the highway. This is an inconvenience and a safety issue. The proposed overflow parking area would be used until a permanent parking area can be identified which is capable of handling additional vehicles.

A biological survey of the area was prepared by Circle Mountain Biological Consultants on 18 August, 2009. The results of their survey showed no special status species present and describe an area that has been highly disturbed in the past (Attachment 1).

The area has been utilized as a parking area for resort visitors in previous years, and historically had been used by U. S. Forest Service contractors as a staging/storage area. No vegetation will be removed and no construction will be needed, as the site is suitable for use as parking in its present condition.

The extended parking area does not provide suitable habitat for any threatened, endangered or Forest Service sensitive species. Based on this, a BE/BA will not be prepared. The project area does not provide suitable habitat for any MIS. Based on this, no MIS analysis and report will be completed. No migratory birds will be impacted by utilization of this area for parking during the winter months.

An intermittent stream runs between the proposed parking area and Highway 2 before entering a culvert. This stream should be impacted as minimally as possible by retaining all riparian vegetation and directing snow removal away.

To eliminate or reduce potential impacts associated with project implementation, the following guidelines are included:

1. Conduct all snow removal activities such that the snow is pushed/blown away from the riparian area along Highway 2. (i.e. to the south or east). All efforts will be made to