



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Santa Clara/Mojave
Rivers Ranger District

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File Code: 2600

Date: May 8, 2007

Dear Interested Parties:

The US Forest Service, Angeles National Forest, Santa Clara/Mojave River Ranger District has initiated an environmental analysis for the Williamson Rock Area Project, located in the upper reaches of the Little Rock Creek (See attached map). The proposed project would analyze opening access to the Williamson Rock Area to the public.

Background. The Williamson Rock Area is a well-known recreation site used predominately for rock climbing. It has been utilized by climbers since the 1960's and is widely regarded as a unique rock climbing resource for the entire Southern California region.

However, on December 27, 2005 the Williamson Rock Area was closed to the public under a temporary closure order (ORDER No. 01-07-01) issued by the Angeles Forest Supervisor. The reason for closing the area was for the protection of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog (MYLF) (*Rana muscosa*), an endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16USC 1531-1536, 1538-1540). The MYLF is found to exist within the upper reaches of the Little Rock Creek area, which is in the vicinity where rock climbers access Williamson Rock.

Purpose and Need. Because of the temporary closure order issued in the project area, the public has been unable to access Williamson Rock for recreational activities, such as rock climbing and hiking. There is the need to maintain public access to the site, while also protecting the federally listed Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog and its critical habitat.

Proposed Action. The Angeles National Forest is proposing to develop a trail that will protect the MYLF and its critical habitat, while also providing access to the Williamson Rock.

All interested parties are encouraged to participate in the scoping process. Please provide written comments by **June 6, 2007**



To: John F. Capell, District Ranger,
Attn. Project leader Jonathan Yonni Schwartz,
Natural Resource Officer
30800 Bouquet Canyon Rd.
Saugus, California 91390

Sincerely,

John F. Capell
District Ranger

Attn. Jonathan Yonni Schwartz

Attachments:
Vicinity Map