



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Cleveland National Forest

Palomar Ranger District  
1634 Black Canyon Road  
Ramona, CA 92065-1205  
(760) 788-0250  
(760) 788-6130 FAX  
CRS 1-800 735-2922

---

File Code: 1950

Date: April 13, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

This letter initiates the comment period for the ***Cedar Creek Falls Visitor Permit Project***. I am informing you about this action because of your potential interest in this project.

The Palomar Ranger District has prepared a draft environmental assessment (Draft EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Draft EA addresses the District's proposal to designate a permit area in the vicinity of Cedar Creek Falls. Visitors to this area would be required to obtain a visitor use permit through the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). This proposal also includes a prohibition on the possession of alcohol in a larger area surrounding Cedar Creek Falls and the closure of the cliffs at the falls to public entry. This proposal would address concerns related to:

- Public health and safety at Cedar Creek Falls and on the San Diego River Gorge Trail
- Resource impacts stemming from high levels of recreational use at Cedar Creek Falls and on the San Diego River Gorge Trail
- Impacts to the San Diego Country Estates (SDCE) neighborhood adjacent to the San Diego River Gorge Trailhead that stem from high levels of recreational use at Cedar Creek Falls
- Compromised emergency and administrative access along Eagle Peak Road during periods of high recreational use at Cedar Creek Falls

Following the construction of the San Diego River Gorge Trail I heard from many of you about a number of concerns. Specifically, you were concerned with the following issue: 1) trail users are parking on the residential streets; 2) trail users are leaving trash at the trailhead and along the trail; 3) some trail users are unprepared for the challenging terrain leading to Cedar Creek Falls and need to be rescued; 4) some forest users are jumping from the cliffs into the pool below Cedar Creek Falls, which has resulted in severe injuries and fatalities; and 5) some groups are using the trailhead area and the area around Cedar Creek Falls for partying, including illegal activities.

This Draft EA addresses these concerns plus a number of resource issues that need to be corrected along the trail system and at Cedar Creek Falls. It can be obtained online at



<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/cleveland/projects>, or by contacting Bjorn Fredrickson, District Recreation and Lands Officer at 760-788-0250 x3327, or via email at [bfredrickson@fs.fed.us](mailto:bfredrickson@fs.fed.us).

### **How You Can Provide Input**

You can provide your input to our proposal in a number of ways.

Written or oral comments may be submitted to: Bjorn Fredrickson, Recreation and Lands Officer, Palomar Ranger District, 1634 Black Canyon Road, Ramona, CA 92065; TEL: 760-788-0250 x3327; FAX 760-788-6130; EMAIL [bfredrickson@fs.fed.us](mailto:bfredrickson@fs.fed.us). In-person comments can be delivered to the address above between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on normal business days.

Comments must be received or postmarked by the end of the 30-day comment period for this proposal. The comment period begins with publication of a legal notice of scoping in the San Diego *Union Tribune*. The publication date is scheduled to be on or around April 17, 2012.

To be eligible for appeal rights, persons who submit comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Names and addresses of persons making comments will become part of the public record. Only persons who provide comments or otherwise express interest in the proposal during the scoping or comment periods will have appeal rights. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.

We appreciate your interest and continuing cooperation and support. Should you have any questions, or need additional information about this project, please contact me or Bjorn Fredrickson, Recreation and Lands Officer for the Palomar Ranger District at 760-788-0250 x3327 or by email at [bfredrickson@fs.fed.us](mailto:bfredrickson@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

*/s/Joan Friedlander*  
JOAN FRIEDLANDER  
District Ranger