



File Code: 1950/2720

Date: September 2, 2011

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Forest Service is initiating a project to evaluate the potential replacement of the current office facilities/buildings for the Crescent Ranger District Administrative Site within the Crescent community.

The project area is located in the town of Crescent, Oregon and at the site of the current Crescent Ranger District Office in Klamath County, Oregon. The legal description is: T.24 S., R.9 E., Section 30, Willamette Meridian.

Background

Crescent is the headquarters of the Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. Crescent/Gilchrist, Oregon is an unincorporated community approximately 47 miles south of Bend, Oregon, surrounded by four smaller communities; Crescent Lake Junction, Schoonover and Vicinity, Two Rivers North/Little Deschutes River, and Jack Pine Village. Crescent/Gilchrist and the surrounding area have approximately 2,000 residents with an additional 1,000 part-time residents in the Crescent Lake area. Crescent Ranger District encompasses 410,426 acres and has a diversity of resources it manages from forest products to recreation centered on the many lakes, streams, and Designated Wilderness Areas. The majority of visitors are from the central Oregon region, Eugene/Springfield, and Klamath Falls.

The Crescent Ranger District is home to approximately 43 full time, 26 seasonal, 31 temporary employees, and three Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps crews consisting of students from Crescent/Gilchrist, Chemult, and LaPine

The current location of the existing facility has been part of the Crescent community since 1914. It is highly visible to the traveling public as Highway 97 is the main north/south corridor east of the Cascade Mountain Range. People visiting from the Willamette Valley, via Eugene, Oregon, tend to use Oregon State Highway 58 then utilize Klamath County Road 61 locally know as the "Crescent Cutoff Road". The Crescent Cutoff Road is also an access point to travel on the Cascade Lakes Highway which is very popular during the summer season. The current Ranger District location provides easy access for the public traveling from the Crescent Cutoff as well as north or south on Highway 97.

Being part of the community core is important as employees volunteer on the Community Action Teams, fire and ambulance service, serve in many other capacities, and patronize the local businesses especially within walking distance of the district office.

Purpose and Need for Action

There is a need replace the current Crescent Ranger District administration building and attached modular trailers with a new energy efficient building within the community of Crescent.

The current arrangement at the administration site is a collection of modular buildings connected to the original administration building (Figure 1). This eclectic and inefficient layout can no longer accommodate the current workforce and mission of the Crescent Ranger District or adequately serve the public during key times such as matsutake mushroom season. Several key factors support the need for a



new office building including; a) increasing costs associated with building maintenance on the existing facility, b) creating a better design for employee workstation efficiency and comfort, c) becoming more energy efficient, d) housing all employees, including the district fire personnel under one roof, and e) the ability to better serve the public (ie. an attached public meeting room, more visibility and space at the front office for visitors). Additionally, the current building does not meet American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for access into the building and inside maneuverability is limited by narrow hallways and steps.

Over the past thirty years, the District has expanded the office in three separate efforts through the use of modular buildings. When presented with a funding opportunity for a fourth expansion using a similar method, the decision was to explore construction of a new, modern, energy efficient building in accordance with the Facilities Master Plan for the Deschutes National Forest.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would include removing the existing administrative office building and modulares, as well as several outbuildings, reconstruct the parking facilities, and constructing a new energy efficient office building and multiple-bay fire garage within the existing footprint of the current administrative site. This proposed action will ensure the Forest Service's commitment to the community.

Here is your invitation to comment. Please feel free to come in and talk, or if you prefer, please direct your comments to Holly Jewkes, District Ranger, Crescent Ranger District, PO Box 208, Crescent, OR 97733. Indicate the name of the project (Crescent Ranger District New Administration Building) in your letter. For more information you may also contact Tina Smith, Support Services Supervisor, Lillian Cross or Tim Foley, Environmental Coordination at (541) 433-3200. Oral comments may also be provided via telephone (541) 433-3200 to any of the above people during normal business hours. Comments may also be sent by email to comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-crescent@fs.fed.us. Comments would be most helpful if received by September 16, 2011. You will have another opportunity for comment when alternatives have been developed and the Draft Environmental Assessment is made available.

Thank you for your interest in the Crescent Ranger District.

Sincerely,



HOLLY JEWKES
District Ranger

Enclosure

