



TRINITY COUNTY COLLABORATIVE AND THE SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST MAKE A PLAN



HIGHLIGHTS

From Fire-kill to Fuelbreaks Project

In spring 2013, the Trinity County Collaborative (TCC) formed as a joint endeavor between landowners, citizens, organizations, businesses and local government working in partnership with leadership from the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity national forests and other federal agencies. All are eager for prompt action to manage highly flammable burned-over forests alongside public roads, scorched during the 2015 wildfires.

In 2015, the TCC received unanimous support from its diverse members on the *From Fire-kill to Fuelbreaks* project developed by its forestry working group. While this TCC project is a short-term collaborative solution targeting removal of roadside post-fire “dead tree” fuel concentrations, ultimately, all participants recognize it will require an “all-hands, all-lands” approach achieved incrementally through multiple projects to affect fire behavior across the landscape, while

at the same time revitalizing natural resource-based economies.

Time for Action

In light of the aftermath of the July 30, 2015 lightning-ignited Lassics and Pickett wildfires, the Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF) and the TCC have agreed to move forward by proposing to fell and harvest up to 250 acres of fire-killed dead trees primarily along either side of ridgeline public roads (see the post-fire condition maps on pages 3 and 4).

The purpose and need of the *From Fire-kill to Fuelbreaks* project is to cost effectively remove fire-killed dead tree fuel concentrations that impede roadside safety corridor objectives. This is the first step toward establishing shaded fuelbreaks that will help protect communities, cultural values, late successional habitats, and botanical and watershed resources that are at risk for high severity reburn.



Lassics Fire

Fire-killed trees alongside public roads will fall over time to create highly flammable conditions in the near future; unsafe for firefighters and difficult to control during a wildfire.



Our Pathway to Success

On November 18, 2015, Six Rivers National Forest staff and TCC’s forestry working group visited areas burned by wildfire to discuss management treatment “zones of agreement.”

Proposed Action – Post-fire Treatments

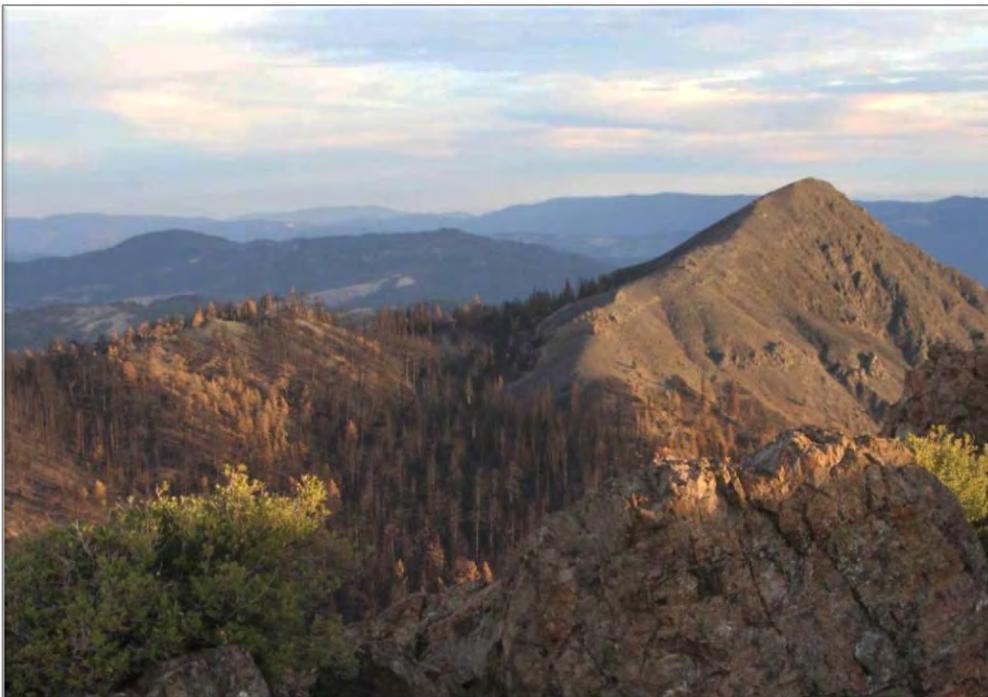
The *From Fire-kill to Fuelbreaks* project proposes roadside fuels reduction by felling and harvesting, using ground-based logging systems, all dead merchantable trees (no green foliage at time of harvest) from a 300-foot-wide strip along National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) roads open to motorized use. Roads included in the project area 2S20, 2S36, 2S24, 1S07 and 1S11 within the Lassics Fire area; and 1S41 and Route 23 within the Pickett Fire area. A maximum 250 acres of wood products, such as timber and firewood, would be removed where burned by moderate and high severity fire, then sold to offset operational costs.

The distance from one side of the treated area to the other at any point would not exceed 300 feet—not including the width of the road, shoulder to shoulder—regardless of where the road falls within the treated area. The minimum treatment area along either side of the road would be 25 feet. Lopping woody debris (slash, including tree limbs and tops) and scattering it around the treatment area would occur for soil cover.

Additional woody debris would either be hand-piled and burned, or machine-piled and burned. No new road construction would be required. Implementation is planned for Spring 2016.

Operations would avoid:

- ❖ Entry in the Lassics Wilderness
- ❖ Entry in the Botanical Area
- ❖ Entry in the Inventoried Roadless Area
- ❖ Cultural resource sites
- ❖ Riparian Reserves
- ❖ Rare plants
- ❖ Geologically unstable slopes, and
- ❖ Northern Spotted Owl nest groves.



High Severity Fire Behavior

These trees on the Six Rivers National Forest were scorched by high severity fire behavior during the 2015 Lassics Fire. This photo was taken looking east from NFTS Road 1S11, as viewed from Unit 1c on November 18, 2015.

Fuels & Fire Behavior...

The inherent relationship between dead tree woody fuels and fire behavior is this: the more fuel present, the longer the fire lingers, the more energy released in burning, the greater potential for heat buildup... in other words, the hotter the fire.

SEEKING IDEAS AND COMMENTS

NEPA (short for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) guides the Forest Service decision-making process and provides opportunities for citizens to share ideas and comments on proposed public land resource management projects, prior to a federal decision.

The SRNF is initiating the 30-day Scoping Period for the *From Fire-kill to Fuelbreaks* project from **January 8, 2016 to February 8, 2016**, so you may be heard.

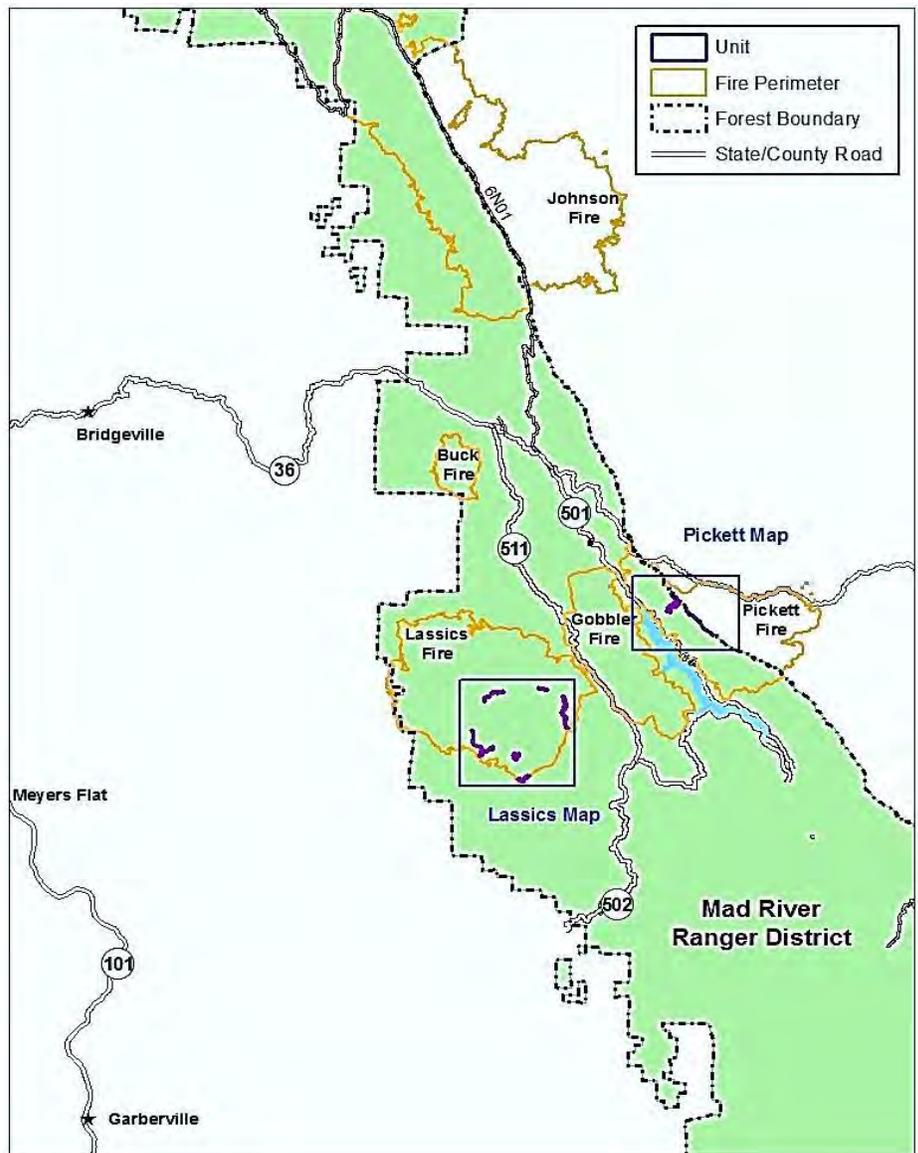
Scoping comments may be (1) mailed to or hand delivered between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays to 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501-3834; (2) faxed to (707) 442 9242; or (3) emailed to comments-pacificsouthwest-six-rivers-mad-river@fs.fed.us. Please make sure that "From Fire-kill to Fuelbreaks Project" is in the subject line of your email(s).



It takes everyone working together to make change happen.

During the field trip, everyone agreed that removing fire-killed trees alongside select public roads is prudent for establishing defensible space safety corridors to aid firefighters and community evacuations.

Questions?? Contact Carol Spinos, the project's team leader, at (707) 441 3561.



Community Meeting

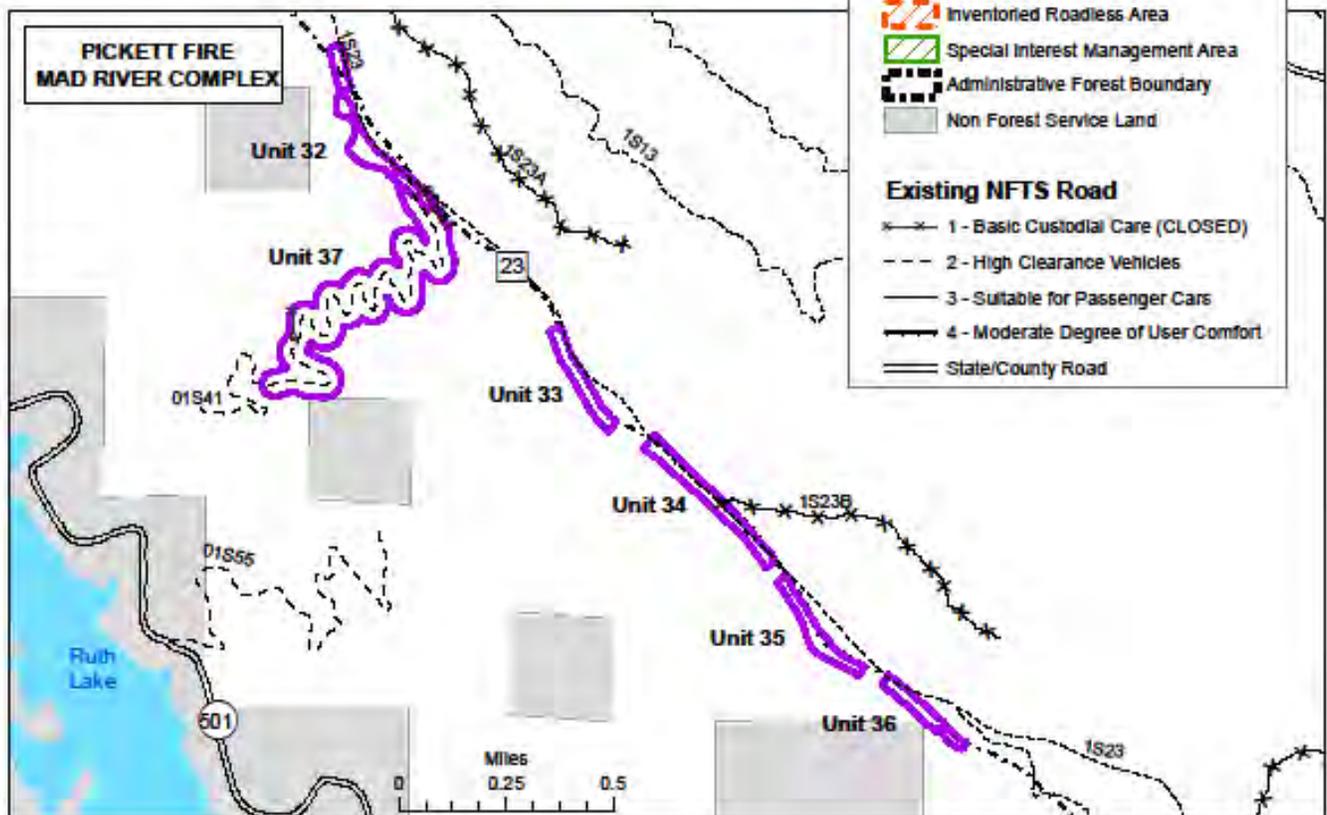
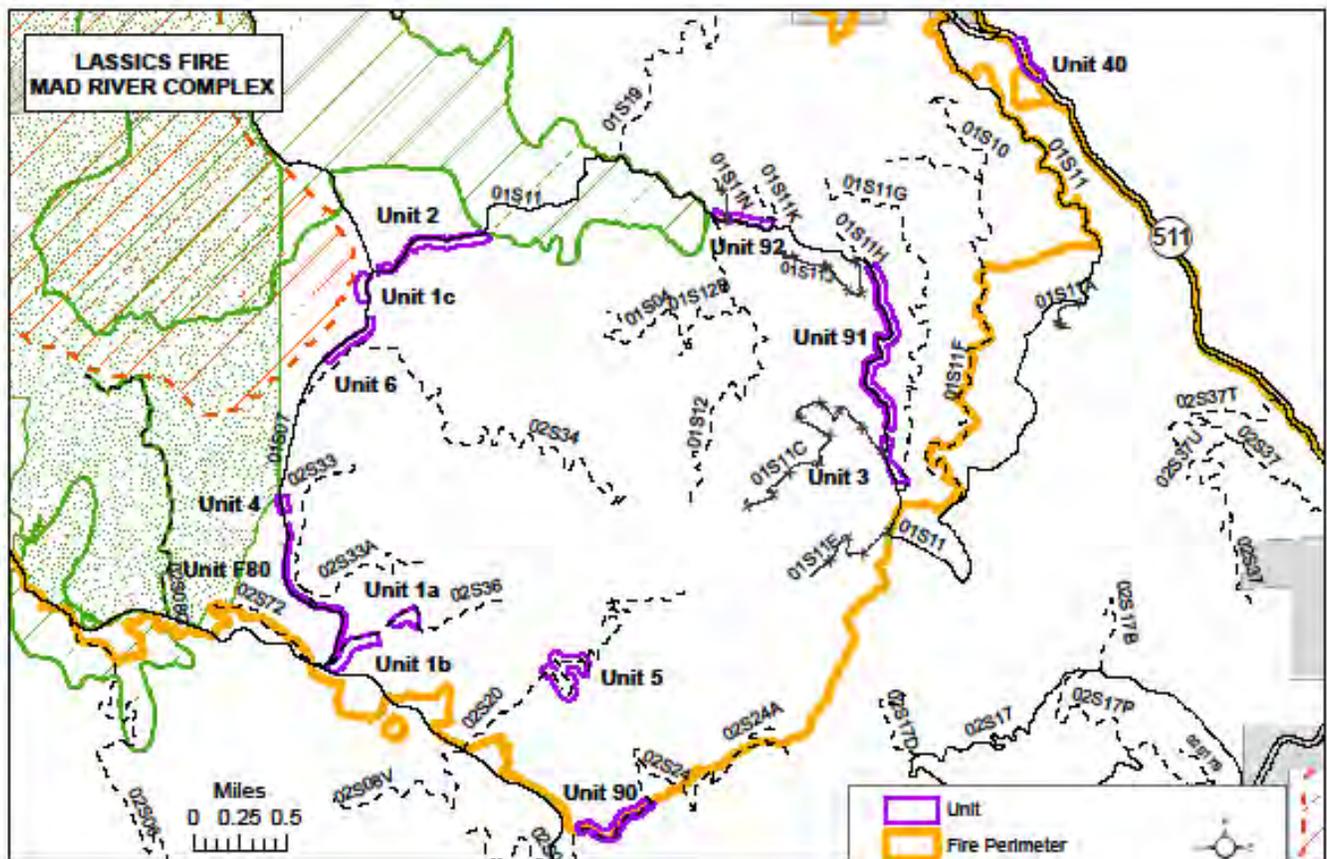
The TCC and the SRNF will be hosting a public meeting at the Ruth Lake Community Service District Hall, 591 Van Duzen Road, in Mad River, on **January 21, 2016**, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., to invite discussion from community members about the proposed action and to encourage participation.

The *From Fire-kill to Fuelbreaks* project falls under the provisions of the *Six Rivers National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (Forest Plan) (USDA 1995), which in

part defines the legal framework for the proposed action.

The SRNF will discuss how the Forest Plan influenced the proposed locations and treatment methods, including the plan to sell commercially valuable timber and forest by-products to offset the operational costs of the project.

The TCC will share next steps and explain their agreed-upon phased triage approach, including a forthcoming multi-partner landscape proposal, to achieve the long-term goals of the TCC.



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