



U.S. Forest Service
Klamath National Forest
1711 South Main Street
Yreka CA 96097
Voice: 530-842-6131
Email: klamathinfo@fs.fed.us
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/klamath

News Release

Media Contact: Kerry Greene
530-841-4485
kkgreene@fs.fed.us



Klamath National Forest Issues Emergency Record of Decision for County Roadside Hazard Tree Removal

Yreka, CA – The Westside Fire Recovery Project County Roadside Hazard Tree Removal Record of Decision (ROD) was signed Wednesday December 23, 2015. The ROD addresses the removal of roadside hazard trees along the Sawyers Bar Road (County Road SIS-1C01).

The Westside Fires occurred in the summer of 2014. Over the past year fire-killed and fire-damaged trees have continued to deteriorate. The damaged trees' root systems are compromised, making the trees more prone to falling. Tree tops and small dead trees have also begun to deteriorate and break. Some trees have already fallen. With the onset of winter and anticipated winter storm events, the probability increases that hazard trees may fall and block the roadway or strike a vehicle. Hazard trees along the Sawyers Bar Road pose an immediate and unnecessary risk to motorists utilizing the road and to residents or emergency personnel who depend on the road for access.

Sawyers Bar Road is a primary travel corridor that provides public access to the communities of Sawyers Bar and Forks of the Salmon, California. The road provides critical access for residents, visitors and emergency personnel. Sawyers Bar Road serves as a primary evacuation route for these communities.

Work is expected to begin in early January on National Forest System lands adjacent to 11.2 miles (536 acres) of Sawyers Bar Road. This includes approximately 1.9 miles (95 acres) of concentrated hazard trees and approximately 9.3 miles (441 acres) of scattered hazard trees.

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