



# News Release

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## **Klamath National Forest Issues Decision for Westside Fire Recovery Project**

### **YREKA, CA**

On Monday, February 29, Forest Supervisor Patricia Grantham signed a decision for the Westside Fire Recovery Project on the Klamath National Forest. The Westside Fire Recovery Project proposed a variety of landscape treatments in response to the impacts to over 187,000 acres of National Forest land that burned during the large wildfires of 2014. The Westside project includes the areas that burned within the Beaver Fire, Happy Camp Complex, and the Whites Fire. Communities directly affected by these fires included Happy Camp, Seiad Valley, Horse Creek, Hamburg, Klamath River, Scott Bar, Sawyers Bar, Quartz Valley, Etna, and Fort Jones, as well as numerous outlying residential enclaves.

The February 29 decision includes 5,570 acres of salvage harvest, 12,700 acres of tree planting, 320 miles of roadside hazard treatment, and 24,450 acres of hazardous fuels reduction, including 11,180 acres of prescribed burn. Planned salvage harvest,

roadside hazard treatment, and hazardous fuels reduction have been strategically located on the landscape and are designed to work in tandem in order to provide increased community protection and to reduce the damaging effects of future high intensity wildfire.

"My decision on the Westside Project is the culmination of an incredible amount of work and thought brought forward by the public, interest groups, tribes, other agencies, elected officials, collaborative groups, and Westside project team professionals," commented Grantham. "With this decision, we have the ability to reduce fire-created threats to the public, Forest workers, neighboring landowners and important infrastructure. We have the ability to keep important access open and build fire breaks and reduce dead fuels in strategic areas to reduce threats from future wildfire. We have the ability to replant severely burned areas to recover the Forest as quickly as possible. I am proud of the work that went into this decision and look forward to implementing it as soon as possible."

The Westside decision follows the July 2015 release of the Final Environment Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project. During preparation of the FEIS, more than 13,000 comments were received on the project. Recent regulatory approvals allowed for the current decision to move forward.

The Record of Decision, and other project documents, can be viewed on the internet at <http://fs.usda.gov/goto/klamath/westside>. It is also available at the Klamath National Forest Supervisor's Office in Yreka, the Yreka public library, and at the Forest Service Ranger District offices in Happy Camp and Fort Jones.

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