

### BUCKS LAKE Stewardship

The Bucks Stewardship project is located approximately 12 miles west of Quincy, California, within the Mt. Hough Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest. The proposed project encompasses all or portions of T.23N, R.7E, sections 1-4, 9-12; T.23N and R.8E, sections 5-7, 18; T.24N, R.7E, sections 27, 28, 33, 36; and T.24N, R.8E, sections 31, 32, MDBM. This proposal covers approximately 597.7 land acres.

The USDA Forest Service, Plumas National Forest (PNF) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Bucks Lake Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project with the following proposed activities:

- reduce hazardous fuels
- improve forest health and watershed conditions
- enhance wildlife habitat
- reintroduction of fire

This Project is guided by the 1988 PNF Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), as amended by the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group (HFQLG); Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD); and the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA). This proposal is part of the implementation of this Project, which will contribute to the Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ) around the Bucks Lake Recreation Area. This project will reduce the potential size and intensity of wildfires by opening the canopy, increase spacing between leave trees, reduce fuel ladders around the leave trees, and reduce the fuel loads on the ground.

As part of the implementation of this project, a Stewardship Integrated Resource Timber Contract (IRTC) is proposed. This contract will focus on the reduction of fuels by using silvicultural prescriptions for the selection and harvest of sawlogs on 470.7 acres (mechanical thin - 351.4 acres, radial thin – 98.7 and group selections – 22.2 acres) and the removal of biomass (393.6 acres). All harvesting would involve removal of mid-story and understory commercial (10.0” – 29.9” Diameter Breast Height (DBH) and non-commercial (3.0” – 9.9” DBH) size conifers. The sale of the sawlogs will be used to finance other fuels reduction activities, either as Mandatory or Optional, through the use of credits to the contractor for work accomplished. The Mandatory items would be the removal, chipping and hauling of biomass to a co-generation power facility and the felling of hazard trees on 68.5 acres along National Forest system roads 24N29Y and 24N33 (hazard trees will be felled if they meet the PNF/R5 Hazard Tree Guidelines and for operability needs and public safety). The Optional items would be to hand thin and pile for burning 8.5 acres inside the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) corridor within a mechanical harvest unit. Also, to grapple pile cull logs, slash and other debris for burning up to 108.9 acres depending on credits available after the Mandatory items are completed.

Implementation on another project within the authority of the Bucks Lake Fuel Reduction Project has already begun with the awarding of the Bucks Campground Stewardship Project in 2013. This project was awarded as two contracts for hazard tree removal (HTR) and biomass removal in five campgrounds and HTR along the roadsides of four FS system roads. All contractual removal of product (sawlog, firewood and biomass) to be completed by May 22, 2014. The Bucks Campground Stewardship has complete 183.9 acres of HTR and 39.4 acres of biomass removal.