



News Release

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

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

Additional Contact: Westside Fire Recovery Project
D-A Brabazon
530-841-4477
dbrabazon@fs.fed.us



U.S. Forest Service Scoping Completed

Yreka, CA – The Klamath National Forest recently completed the scoping phase for the Westside Fire Recovery Project. More than 1,600 comments from the public were submitted to the U.S. Forest Service in response to the project. The comments will be used to help formulate different approaches for post fire restoration.

“We received a wide variety of viewpoints on the project,” noted Klamath Forest Supervisor Patty Grantham. “We appreciate the public taking the time to comment.”

The Westside Fire Recovery Project’s objectives are a three-pronged effort: reduce safety hazards to Forest users, adjacent landowners and Forest workers from falling trees and hazardous fuels conditions; to obtain the maximum economic value from burned timber; and increase the likelihood and speed by which the burned forest areas are regenerated. Included in the project are four treatments: salvage, roadside hazard treatments, hazardous fuels treatments and site preparation, planting and release.

Approximately 10,600 acres are identified for potential salvage treatments, 678 miles of roads will be evaluated for roadside hazard tree removal and another 11,411 acres will be treated for hazardous fuels, especially within the Wildland Urban Interface. Site preparation, planting and release activities will address an additional 20,000 acres.

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“Restoration of the landscape is a priority,” Grantham stated, pointing out that “the removal of dead trees is considered part of the restoration process as it mitigates falling tree hazards, creates desirable seedling conditions, and reduces fuel buildups.”

While the recent scoping period has closed for public comment, Grantham stated that the U.S. Forest Service continues to welcome the public’s remarks.

Anyone wishing view the documents associated to the project, read public comments as well as submit comments can do so at the Forest’s website, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath/>, and click on the link to the Westside Fire Recovery Project. Comments can also be emailed to klamathinfo@fs.fed.us or wcoats@fs.fed.us.

The next formal comment public comment period will be in mid-March after the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

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