

File Code: 1950

Date: September 9, 1999

Subject: Forest-wide LSRA

To: District Rangers and Staff

This memo is to inform you that the Shasta-Trinity Forest-wide Late-Successional Reserve Assessment (LSRA) is completed, reviewed, and approved to allow development and implementation of projects within late-successional reserves (LSRs) and managed late-successional areas (MLSAs). LSRs and MLSAs are key component of the Forest Plan in providing for old forest ecosystems including habitat for the northern spotted owl. However, as our assessment reveals there are critical issues that need our attention within these areas, including unacceptable fuel hazards and over stocked stand conditions.

The Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) has reviewed the LSRA. In its letter dated August 26, 1999, "[t]he REO finds that the LSRA provides sufficient framework and context for future projects and activities within the LSRs. Future silvicultural activities described in the LSRA that meet [the LSRAs] criteria and objectives and are also consistent with the Standards and Guidelines of the Northwest Plan (NFP) [and Shasta-Trinity National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP)] are exempt from further project-level REO review ...". Projects that are consistent with the Forest-wide LSRA, as specified in the REO consistency letter dated August 26, 1999, can proceed with no further review by REO.

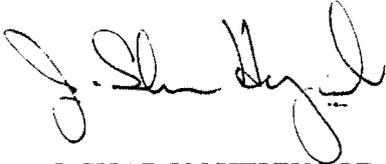
As you know, the preparation of the Forest-wide LSRA was a significant undertaking, covering 18 LSRs and 6 MLSAs located primarily on this Forest, but also including small portions of the Klamath National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest, and Bureau of Land Management lands. The LSRA is a product of an interagency core team, including USFWS, as well as many other contributors.

The Forest-wide LSRA is an analysis of existing, historic, and desired conditions, treatment criteria, and recommendations for implementation and monitoring, and not a decision document with a proposed action requiring NEPA documentation. The LSRA does, however, serve as the basis for developing project-specific proposals, and monitoring within the LSRs and MLSAs. The LSRA should provide guidance to unit managers and project-level teams in the design and implementation of projects such as reforestation of habitat lost to wildfire.

Those actions should be consistent with recommendations from the LSRA. The LSRA can also provide critical information needed in the preparation of watershed analysis, such as habitat connectivity, areas of lethal fire hazard, and vegetation mosaic.

For specific questions or assistance in using the Forest-wide LSRA please contact Ralph Phipps or Arlene Kallis of the Forest Planning Staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Sharon Heywood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J. SHARON HEYWOOD
Forest Supervisor