



Forest Health Protection Pacific Southwest Region



Date: October 27, 2009
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To: Ron Recker, Regional Fire Management Officer, BIA Pacific Region

Subject: Biological Evaluation Of BIA Proposal For FPM
Suppression/Prevention Funds For Dwarf Mistletoe Sanitation
Treatment At The Enterprise Rancheria (FHP Report No. N10-03)

It has come to my attention that Gerald Jones (Assistant Regional Forester, BIA Pacific Region) has submitted a FY2010 Forest Pest Management Prevention/Suppression project proposal for \$42,000 for a dwarf mistletoe sanitation removal treatment at the Enterprise Rancheria of the Maidu Indians.

Four years ago, Entomologist Dave Schultz and I visited the Enterprise Rancheria and found light infestations of ponderosa pine dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium campylopodum*) and gray pine dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium occidentale*) scattered throughout the ponderosa pine and gray pine on the Rancheria. The results of our visit were detailed in FHP Report #N06-02. At the time, we recommended that a sanitation thin be performed on the pines, along with a thinning/removal treatment of oak and brush that were elevating fuel levels and increasing stress in the overstory pines. Although I've been told that most of the oak and brush has been removed in a recent fuels treatment, the dwarf mistletoe-infected pines still remain. The BLM has submitted a Forest Pest Management Prevention/Suppression project proposal for \$3,000 to perform a presuppression survey in 2010, and the BIA would like to partner with the BLM to perform similar sanitation treatments on the BLM land surrounding the Rancheria.

Although I have not visited the Enterprise Rancheria since 2005, my treatment recommendations remain the same. Unless the most of the dwarf mistletoe-infected pines are removed, ponderosa and gray pines that are planted or regenerated under the infested overstory will rapidly become infected as well. Immediate sanitation thinning holds the best chance of retaining the best of the overstory pines while preventing the infection of developing understory pines. The treatment has the potential to improve forest health conditions for many years to come. For this reason, I support the proposal for funds for this treatment.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this FPM Suppression/Prevention project proposal.

/s/ Pete Angwin

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cc: Gerald Jones, Ren Reynolds, Frank Watson, Sr., Phil Cannon, Bob Rabaglia, Cynthia Snyder, Sheri Smith and Julie Lydick

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