



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
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Route To:

Subject: Refuge LSR Western Bark Beetle Initiative Project Proposals and Priority Order of NCA Service Area WBBi Proposals For FY2009 (FHP Report No. N08-08)

To: Sheri Smith, Regional Entomologist, Pacific Southwest Region

This year, Nancy Gard of the Upper Lake Ranger District, Mendocino National Forest, submitted two proposals for Western Bark Beetle Initiative (WBBi) prevention thinning work at the Refuge LSR. One is a three-year proposal with a request for \$120,000 in FY2009 to accomplish 200 acres of precommercial thinning and fuels/slash treatment. The total requested expenditure over three years (2009-2011) is for \$380,000 for 600 acres. The second request is a single-year request for \$55,250 for an 85-acre accomplishment. NEPA for the treatments is complete under the "East Boardman TSI" (2003) and "Refuge LSR PCT & Fuels Reduction" (2006) Decision Memos. This serves as a letter of support for these proposals.

The Northern California Shared Service Area Office has had a long history of involvement with and support for thinning work at the Refuge LSR. A complete evaluation of the biological rationale, support and history of the project is detailed in FHP Report #N07-10, which was submitted in support of the Forest's FY2008 proposal. Overall, the current stand condition and proposed treatments are the same for both the 600-acre and 84-acre proposal areas. Nancy Gard has submitted a WBBi Project Proposal Form and photos of several of the stands in the project area, which are included at the end of this report.

In FY08, the Upper Lake District received \$51,000 to accomplish 85 acres of thinning. However, while the District was working on the layout of units and IDIQ contract submission, access to the area was restricted due to the discovery of marijuana gardens in the area. Forest personnel could only enter with LEO escort, but LEOs were not available due to the fires. The District responded by moving the project to the Boardman Ridge side of the LSR, but by the time it was ready for bid, funds for the project were lost to the fire withdrawal. However, because the project had high priority with the Forest, they were able to get fuels funding and go ahead with the project. As a result, the 85 acres of thinning at the alternate location is now under contract (well done!). In all, the Forest has now accomplished 285 acres of thinning at the LSR.

The smaller FY2009 Refuge LSR proposal is to complete the work on the original 85 acres that was proposed in FY2008. Because the Forest would like to finish what it has started, the 85-acre project was put at the top of the priority list for new WBBi project submissions for FY2009. The Mendocino NF's priority list is as follows:



1. Refuge LSR 85-Acre Thin (One Year)- \$55,250 for 85 acres in FY09
2. Alder Springs Fuel Reduction (One Year)- \$112,000 for 224 acres in FY09
3. Refuge LSR 600-Acre Thin (Three Years)- \$120,000 for 200 acres in FY09

Note that the Alder Springs project was placed above the larger Refuge LSR project. This is because the Alder Springs project has very high public visibility (the first SPLAT project in the Region) and is an important part of the Region's focus on work relating to climate change.

Because the 85 acres in the smaller Refuge LSR project can be incorporated into the larger three-year project, I suggest that the two submissions be combined into one, giving first priority to funding the project at the lower level (85 acres for \$55,250). If the overall Regional WBB budget allows funding of 200 acres of accomplishment, the Refuge LSR project should be funded at that level. However, this should only be done if the three new projects in the Northern California Service Area that are higher in priority than the larger Refuge LSR project (Tompkins WUI/LSR Thin, Alder Springs WUI Thin and Godfrey Ranch WUI Thin) are funded first. I further suggest that regardless of the level at which the project is funded in FY09, the Refuge LSR Thin project should now be considered as a three year project, and receive funding for at least 200 acres per year in FY 2010 and 2011 (assuming acceptable accomplishment in FY09). This has been discussed with Nancy Gard and Nancy Mulligan (Mendocino National Forest) and is acceptable to them.

As a result, combining this with the other new project submissions in the NCA Service Area, Cynthia Snyder's and my overall funding priority order is as follows:

1. Refuge LSR Thin (Three Years)- \$55,250 for 85 acres in FY09 (Mendocino NF), or, if sufficient FY09 funding is available after funding projects #2, 3 and 4, fund Refuge LSR at \$120,000 for 200 acres. Continuing funding requests will be for 200 acres in FY10 for \$120,000 and for 200 acres in FY11 for \$140,000.
2. Tompkins WUI/LSR Thin (One Year)- \$168,200 for 337 acres in FY09 (Klamath NF)
3. Alder Springs WUI Thin (One Year)- \$112,000 for 224 acres in FY09 (Mendocino NF)
4. Godfrey Ranch WUI Thin (One Year)- \$208,900 for 340 acres in FY09 (Klamath NF)
5. Humbug WUI Mastication (One Year)- \$44,300 for 91 acres in FY09 (Klamath NF)

If you have any questions on this or would like to discuss it further, please give me a call.

PETE ANGWIN
Plant Pathologist
Forest Health Protection
Northern California Shared Service Area

cc: Tom Contreras, Nancy Mulligan, Nancy Gard, Jesse Rosenquist, Lee Johnson, Sheri Smith, Julie Lydick and Phil Cannon

Project Name:	REFUGE LSR THIN
Proposed number of acres	85 of acres of pct, 200 acres if funding is available. 485-600-acres are proposed over the three-year life of the project
Unit track record	<p>Look at previous years planned vs. accomplishment. Include brief statement.</p> <p>The Upper Lake District has applied for and accomplished many projects utilizing FPM funding and has an excellent track record of devoting the time and energy necessary to be successful (i.e. 100-acre LSR thinning projects in the Refuge LSR (FYs '04 and '05), Pillsbury Homesite Fuel Hazard Reduction Project Phase 1 and 2, Round Burn Thinning under the Bark Beetle Prevention funding, Sugar Pine pruning to reduce the potential for blister rust infections.</p> <p>In addition, 85-acres of thinning at the alternate site at Refuge LSR (after the FY08 project was moved to because of the marijuana gardens in the original project area), was completed (now under contract) with fuels funds that replaced SPS4 funds that were withdrawn for fire suppression. Note that the current proposal is to thin at the original 85-acres from last year's proposal.</p> <p>NEPA for this project is completed under the "East Boardman TSI" (2003 and "Refuge LSR PCT & Fuels Reduction" (2006) Decision Memos.</p>
Plans to showcase project	<p>Yes or no, if yes, how?</p> <p>Serve as a model for SPLAT implementation within a large tract of even-age, fire-susceptible plantations. Work is viewed by the public and showcased to our partners at the US Fish and Wildlife Service and North Coast Water Quality Control Board.</p>
Thinning to a level that reduces susceptibility to bark beetles as determined by an FHP specialist	<p>Yes or no (this is part of the accomplishments database that asks if the project was successful).</p> <p>Yes, proposed thinning from 400-600 TPA to 109 TPA (20' x 20' spacing) is consistent with the Regional Forester's letter of direction for density management and no further thinning/harvest treatment would be needed for at least 20 years. This will accelerate development of larger, more fire-resilient stands to meet future LSR habitat needs..</p>

Are their partners on the project contributing \$\$?	<p>Yes or no, if yes, who are they and what are they contributing?</p> <p>No external partners at this time. Internally, will use a combination of appropriated money from various EBLI areas to accomplish an integrated project, including, as available WFHF, NFWF, NFWW and RTRT</p>
Multi-year project	<p>Schedule of activities included?</p> <p>Requested Bark Beetle Prevention funding = a total of \$315,250 to \$380,000 for 485-600 acres over 3 years, as follows: FY'09 request = \$55,250 for 85 acres or \$120,000 for 200 acres (if funding allows) FY'10 request = \$120,000 for 200 acres FY'11 request = \$140,000 for 200 acres</p> <p>Funding requests in FY'10 and 11 may be reduced depending upon available Forest/District budgets that can be pooled to contribute toward project accomplishment.</p>
Project area is at risk (*)	Yes

Overstocked treatment plantations at Refuge LSR- September, 2008

