



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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Route To:

Subject: Evaluation of Forest Insect and Disease Conditions At The Enterprise Rancheria (FHP Rept. No. N06-02)

To: Gerald Jones, Assistant Regional Forester, BIA Pacific Region
Ren Reynolds, EPA Planner, Enterprise Rancheria
Frank Watson, Sr., Tribal Vice Chairman

On July 21, 2005, Dave Schultz (entomologist) and I visited the Enterprise Rancheria with Ren Reynolds (EPA Planner), Frank Watson, Sr. (Tribal Vice Chairman) and Gerald Jones (Asst. Regional Forester, BIA Pacific Region). The purpose of the trip was to evaluate forest insect and disease conditions on Rancheria land and to develop potential Forest Pest Management Suppression/Prevention projects.

Vegetation on the 40-acre Rancheria consists mainly of dense thickets of oak and brush, with scattered pockets of ponderosa pine and gray pine. Fuel levels due to the oak and brush are high. Western dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium campylopodum*) and gray pine dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium occidentale*) was found in some of the ponderosa and gray pines, respectively. Overall, the infestation level of dwarf mistletoe is low, both in individual trees and in the stand as a whole. Most infected pines had Hawksworth Dwarf Mistletoe Ratings (DMRs) of 1 or 2 (out of a maximum of 6), while a few had DMRs of 3. No other significant forest insects or diseases were noted.

Overall, the Rancheria would benefit from the thinning/removal of most of the oak and brush. This would significantly reduce fire hazard by reducing fuel levels, and would also increase the availability of water to the remaining pines, reducing stress levels and promoting their overall health.

A second treatment that is recommended is to perform a sanitation thinning on the ponderosa and gray pine to reduce the dwarf mistletoe levels. This treatment would target for removal pines that are infected with dwarf mistletoe, have poor growth form, or are no longer growing well, as evidenced by rounded tops. Because ponderosa pine is a more long-lived tree, it should be favored for retention over the more short-lived gray pine. Only the best of the best of the pines should remain after the treatment. Ideally, the pines that remain should be at roughly a 30-50-foot spacing. Since dwarf mistletoe spreads relatively slowly, removal of the infected trees will be highly effective in keeping dwarf mistletoe levels very low for many years to come.

Forest Pest Management Suppression/Prevention funds could be used to help fund the sanitation thinning treatment, either by helping to fund the preparation of a timber sale that would remove the infected pines, or by providing funds for a service contract to remove the infected pines. To



apply for these funds, the Rancheria would need to submit the following to Gerald Jones at the BIA Pacific Region Office:

1. A project proposal form (Form FS-3400-2)
2. A short (one page) narrative describing the proposed treatment.
3. An economic analysis of the costs and benefits of doing versus not doing this project.
4. A copy of this biological evaluation to the BIA Pacific Region Office.

Since the initial fuel removal treatment would not directly address an insect of disease infestation, FPM Suppression/Prevention funds cannot be used to fund that treatment. However, Gerald Jones has indicated that fuels program funds are available to assist with this. The timing of the funding requests and treatments that we discussed while on the Rancheria would be adequate to address the situation- Apply for fiscal year 2007 fuel treatment funds in 2006 and treat the fuels in 2007, then apply for FY2008 FPM Suppression/Prevention funds for the dwarf mistletoe treatment in late summer of 2007 for treatment in 2008.

Dave and I look forward to our continuing involvement with this vegetation management project. If you have any questions regarding the observations or recommendations in this report, please feel free to contact Dave Schultz or me.

Pete Angwin
Plant Pathologist

cc: Dave Schultz
Julie Lydick
John Kliejunas