

**KINGS RIVER PROJECT**  
**Draft Supplemental**  
**Environmental Impact Statement**  
**Fresno County, California**

<b>Lead Agency:</b>	<b>USDA Forest Service</b>
<b>Cooperating Agencies:</b>	<b>none</b>
<b>Responsible Official:</b>	<b>Edward C. Cole, Forest Supervisor 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611</b>
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**Abstract:** The Sierra National Forest proposed to return about 13,700 acres of the forest landscape in the Kings River Project area to a more resilient condition. This action is necessary to protect life and property, and to protect sensitive wildlife and habitat from loss to uncharacteristically severe wildfire. This would be accomplished through use of hand and mechanical removal of brush and trees, and through the use of prescribed fire. The Forest also proposes to improve the condition of degraded watersheds and remove infestations of noxious weeds. Each action alternative is designed to protect the small population of fishers and spotted owls that live in the project area.

Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the review period of the draft environmental impact statement. This will enable the Forest Service to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision-making process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. *City of Angoon v. Hodel* (9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be specific and should address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

The opportunity to comment ends 45 days following publication of the notice of availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. Send comments to: Edward C. Cole, Forest Supervisor, Sierra National Forest, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611. The acceptable format(s) for electronic comments is MS Word or Rich Text Format. Electronic comments should be sent to: [comments-pacificsouthwest-sierra@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-sierra@fs.fed.us), Subject Line: Kings River Project – Eight Management Units.