



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Klamath  
National  
Forest

Supervisors  
Office

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File Code: 1950

Date: October 8, 2014

**Subject: Opportunity to Comment on the Westside Fire Recovery Proposal**

Dear Reviewer:

The Klamath National Forest (Forest) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Westside Fire Recovery Project, and we are asking for your participation in project scoping. The Westside Fire Recovery Project was developed in response to landscape-level ecosystem needs due to the high intensity and severity of effects of the 2014 Fire Season. The Forest proposes to (1) reduce safety hazards to the public and forest workers; (2) obtain the maximum economic commodity value from burned timber; and (3) increase the likelihood and speed by which burned forested areas are regenerated. The proposal will be refined in response to public comments.

The project area is comprised of 214,848 total acres, including 184,502 acres of NFS land proposed for treatment. It is divided into three subparts: project area A (Beaver Fire), project area B (Happy Camp Complex), and project area C (Whites Fire of the July Complex). The proposal, including maps, is also available on Klamath National Forest's project webpage at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=45579>.

Project specific meetings or field trips were not scheduled prior to scoping due to the time-sensitive nature of post-fire project implementation. The Forest will share information about the 2014 fires that were located within the Westside Fire Recovery Project at the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) public meetings. The Forest will also take opportunities to share project information at other previously scheduled meetings. Project-specific public meetings and field trips will be planned after scoping. Official comments will not be recorded at the meetings listed above. Comments will only be included if received during the scoping and comment periods, including comments received within 30 days of the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register. Comments made within 30 days are assured consideration in the next phase of project planning. Publication of the NOI is anticipated on October 14, 2014.

This project is subject to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B; however, the Forest is requesting an emergency situation determination as provided for in 36 CFR 218.21. If it is determined that an emergency situation exists with respect to all or part of the proposed project or activity, the proposed action shall not be subject to the pre-decisional objection process and implementation may proceed immediately after notification of the decision (§218.21(d)(1)). The responsible official shall identify any emergency situation determination made for a project in the notification of the decision (§218.21(e)). If an emergency situation determination is not made, only those who submit timely project-specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection. The Forest is also seeking alternative arrangements from the Council on Environmental Quality. Such arrangements may include a shorter comment period and concurrent release of the final EIS and record of decision.



It is important to us that reviewers provide their comments within the deadline and in a manner that they can be used for the agency's preparation of the EIS. For example, think about the following questions and provide comments about the "what" and "why": (1) what information would you like us to provide and why; (2) what concerns do you have in regards to the proposal and why; and (3) what changes should we consider in our project design and why. These questions and your participation will help us refine the project proposal as well as help the interdisciplinary team develop effective, issue-driven alternatives and mitigations to the proposed action as needed. Citations are required for all referenced literature in scoping comment letters; if no citations are provided, the Forest Service reserves the right to request copies of any literature cited.

Submit electronic comments at the Klamath National Forest's project webpage: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=45579> by selecting the "Comment on Project" link in the "Get Connected" group at the right hand side of the project webpage. Put the project name in the subject line; attachments may be in the following formats: plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc, .docx), or portable document format (.pdf).

Submit written comments via fax to (530) 842-6131 or mailed to Patricia A. Grantham, ATTN: Wendy Coats, 1711 S. Main Street, Yreka, CA 96097, or hand-delivered during normal business hours (8am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday, excluding holidays). For oral comments or for more project information, contact Forest Environmental Coordinator Wendy Coats at (530) 841-4470 or [wcoats@fs.fed.us](mailto:wcoats@fs.fed.us). Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection (40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22; Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 21).

If you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Wendy Coats at the contact information listed above.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

  
PATRICIA A. GRANTHAM  
Forest Supervisor