

3-13-15
Siskiyou Daily News

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OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE WESTSIDE FIRE RECOVERY PROJECT

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Westside Fire Recovery Project is now available for public review. The EIS covers the environmental consequences of the no action alternative, the proposed action, and three action alternatives developed in response to initial public comments. The project will address the needs for 1) worker and public safety and access; 2) safe conditions for firefighters performing fire suppression and community protection; 3) a project that is economically viable, meeting project objectives and benefiting our local communities; and 4) restored and fire-resilient forested ecosystems. The draft EIS and supporting documents are available on the Klamath National Forest's project webpage: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45579

In order to facilitate implementation of the project, the Forest is seeking an Emergency Situation Determination pursuant to 36 CFR 218.21. Under 36 CFR 218.21(d), a proposed action is not subject to the pre-decisional objection process if the Chief or Associate Chief of the Forest Service determines that an emergency situation exists with respect to all or part of the proposed action or activity. If an emergency situation determination is not granted, the project will be subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. Only those who submit timely project-specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection. Individuals or representatives of an entity submitting comments must sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

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Publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register will be published March 13, 2015. The Forest Service received alternative arrangements that shortened the 45-day comment period requirement for the draft EIS by 15 days, resulting in a 30 day comment period (40 CFR 1506.10(c)). The comment period closes April 13, 2015. Commenters should not rely on dates from other sources. The commenter is responsible for meeting this deadline for submitting comment (36 CFR 218.25). Comments received within the deadline will be considered. Individuals or representatives of an entity submitting comments must sign the comments or verify identity upon request. 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). In order for a reference to be considered, commenters should supply referenced literature and discuss its relevancy to the project as part of their comments. To submit comments on the Klamath National Forests' project webpage (http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45579), select the "Comment on Project" link under the "Get Connected" group at the right hand side of the project webpage. Include your group or individual contact information and provide attachments in the following formats: plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc, .docx), or portable document format (.pdf). Written comments can be submitted via fax (530) 841-4571 or mailed to the Klamath National Forest Headquarters, to Patricia Grantham, ATTN: Wendy Coats, Klamath National Forest,

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1711 South Main Street, Yreka, CA 96097, or hand-delivered during normal business hours (8:00 am to 5:00pm Monday-Friday, excluding holidays). For oral comments or for more project information contact Wendy Coats at 530-841-4470 or wcoats@fs.fed.us. News #7780. Pub. Mar. 13, 2015