



File Code: 1950

Date: April 28, 2015

To: Scoping Respondents and Other Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies

I am pleased to provide you with, and invite your comments on, the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Bald Fire Salvage and Restoration Project (Bald Project). The Lassen National Forest (LNF) Hat Creek Ranger District, has prepared this EA to present the environmental consequences of three alternatives, including the no action, analyzed in detail. A comment period is being provided for this EA pursuant to the Notice, Comment, and Objection Procedures of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (36 CFR 218.22), and is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this action an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official on the alternatives analyzed in detail.

The Bald Project is located approximately 14 miles southeast of Fall River Mills, California. The legal location for the Bald Project includes portions of Township (T) 34 North (N), Range (R) 5 East (E), Section 1; R6E, Sections 1-18, 20-23, and 27; R7E, Sections 5-7, and 18; T35N, R5E, Sections 11-15, 22-26 and 35-36; R6E, Sections 7-36; R7E, Sections 18-20 and 30-31; T36N, R5E, Sections 25-27 and 33-36; R6E, Sections 16, 19-22, and 26-35, in Shasta and Lassen Counties, California. The Forest Service is proposing to treat 14,363 acres that burned on National Forest System lands. Proposed activities include: 1) removing hazard trees along roads and trails, 2) salvaging fire-killed conifers, 3) fuels treatments, 4) site preparation, and 5) reforestation. This project is designed to: immediately reduce numerous safety hazards caused by the Bald Fire; capture the limited, remaining forest product economic value; reduce fuel loads to adequately prepare sites for costly regeneration and reduce future loadings that create conditions prime for devastating reburns; and quickly reforest suitable portions of the landscape deforested by the Bald Fire before these sites become fully occupied by competing vegetation. Copies of the EA are available for your review on the Forest Service website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/lassen/landmanagement/projects>.

An Emergency Situation Determination (ESD) is being requested for the pending decision on this project. An ESD would grant immediate implementation of all or part of this decision necessary for relief from hazards threatening human health and safety or natural resources, or which would result in substantial loss of economic value to the Federal Government if implementation of the decision were delayed.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the Lassen County Times, the newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source (36 CFR 218.24(c)(2)). Extensions to the length of the comment period cannot be granted (36 CFR 218.25(a)(iv)). Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218.25(a), including specific written



comments as defined in 218.2 regarding the proposed project, along with supporting reasons (218.25 (a)(3)(iii)). The commenter is responsible to provide the literature cited in their comment, as well as the full citation and explanation of how each piece of literature cited applies to the proposed action. Each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding this project must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request (218.24(b)(8)). All written comments received by the responsible official become a matter of public record (218.35(b)(2)).

Comments may be submitted to: Lassen National Forest; Attn: Bald Fire Salvage and Restoration Project; 477-050 Eagle Lake Road; Susanville, CA 96130; delivered to the address shown above during business hours (M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm); or, submitted by FAX (530) 252-5803.

Electronic comments, in acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) formats, may be submitted to: FS-comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen@fs.fed.us with Subject: Bald Project.

A decision regarding this proposal is expected in June 2015. Additional information regarding this action may be obtained from: Terre Pearson Ramirez, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, by phone at (530) 257-4188.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process.

Sincerely,

/S/ DAVE HAYES

Russell D. Hays
Forest Supervisor