

Opportunity to Comment on the Moonlight Fire Area Restoration Project

The Mt. Hough Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest is preparing an environmental assessment of the Moonlight Fire Area Restoration Project. We are proposing management activities designed to restore the area affected by the 2007 Moonlight Fire; to reduce the post-fire effects to vegetation, watersheds, and recreation; and to enhance resiliency to future fires, droughts, insect and disease infestations, and climate change.

Proposed vegetation management activities include reforestation of sites that have been heavily burned, aspen restoration, vegetation thinning, hazardous fuel reduction, and wildlife habitat improvement. In addition, we are proposing road management activities; including maintenance, decommissioning unneeded roads, and obliterating non-system roads to reduce impacts to water quality. Finally we are proposing trail management activities consisting of brush removal and maintenance for motorized and nonmotorized recreational trails.

The project is located on national forest system lands on the Plumas National Forest, Mount Hough Ranger District. It is approximately five to 15 miles north and east of Taylorville, California and 20 to 30 miles northeast of Quincy, California. The project includes treatments in watersheds within and surrounding the Moonlight Fire perimeter in T26N, R10E sections 1, 12-14, 23-25; T26N, R11E sections 1-24, 29-31; T26N, R12E sections 1-34; T26N, R13E section 6; T27N, R10E section 1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 36; T27N, R11E sections 1-36; T27N, R12E sections 2-36; T27N, R13E sections 17-21, 28-30; T28N, R10E sections 13-14, 23-27, 34-36; T28N, R11E, sections 1-36, and T28N, R12E, sections 5-9, 14-23, 26-35, Mount Diablo Base Meridian..

The proposed action is available online at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/plumas/landmanagement/projects>

The proposed action and supporting documentation is also available for review at the Mt. Hough Ranger District, 39696 Highway 70, Quincy, CA 95971. Additional information regarding this project can be obtained from: Christine Handler, Project Leader, phone: 559-920-2188; email: cahandler@fs.fed.us.

The Responsible Official who will issue a decision on this project is Daniel Lovato, Forest Supervisor, Plumas National Forest.

Public Information Meetings

Public information meetings will be held to provide an informal opportunity for stakeholders to learn about the project and ask questions of Forest Service staff. These meetings are expected to be held in mid-September with dates and locations still to be determined. Public notice of the details of these meetings will be provided at a later date.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Specific written comments on the proposed project would be most useful when received by **September 30, 2016**. Written comments must be submitted via mail, fax, or in person to: Micki Smith, District Ranger, c/o Plumas Fire Restoration Comments, Mt. Hough Ranger District, 39696 Highway 70, Quincy, CA 95971, Fax 530-283-1821, or in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays. Please submit your comments through the online comment form. You can access the comment form by clicking on "Comment on Project" on the

right-hand side of the project website at: <http://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/fs-usda-pop.php?project=49421>.

Comments submitted electronically must be in plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx), portable document format (.pdf), or an email message. Please include “**Moonlight Fire Area Restoration Project**” in the subject line.

Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Objection Regulations (36 CFR §218)

The proposed project is subject to the pre-decisional review (or objection) regulations of 36 CFR §218 Subparts A and B. This is a supplemental notice being provided to announce a designated opportunity to comment associated with the project scoping period. This is *not* the legal notice associated with the comment period specified in 36 CFR §218.24.

Only those who submit timely and specific written comments (defined by 36 CFR §218.1) during a designated public comment period established by the responsible official will have eligibility to file an objection (36 CFR §218.5). For this scoping comment period, comments will be considered timely if submitted by **September 30, 2016**. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments must either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in §218.25(a) (3).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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