



United States
Department of Agriculture

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
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Forest Service

File Code: 1950

Date: May 30, 2012

Route To:

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Pettijohn Late-successional Reserve Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project

To: Project Participant

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest has completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Pettijohn Late-successional Reserve Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project (Pettijohn). The project area lies within the Clear Creek Late-successional Reserve, and between Lewiston Lake, Trinity Lake and the Trinity River. The project area encompasses 21,571 acres, and consists of 13,162 acres of Forest Service System land and 8,409 acres of private land.

The main objectives of the project are to reduce fuel loading, provide for fire fighter safety and improve old-growth habitat. The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 (H.R. 1904) provides for improved efficiency with respect to the regulatory compliance process for healthy forest restoration on National Forest System lands. Pettijohn is authorized under Section 102(a)(5)(A-C) of the HFRA.

If you have previously requested a hard copy of the FEIS it is enclosed here. Chapters 1 and 2 provide background and description of alternatives. More detail on the effects of alternatives is presented in Chapter 3. The FEIS and supporting documents are available electronically on the project website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=14323.

The preferred alternative is Alternative 2 with modification. Specifically, 310 acres of treatments within high value habitat in occupied northern spotted owl (NSO) core areas would be deferred for later consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service and reported under a separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision. Further consultation with FWS and analysis of the costs and benefits are needed before treating those units. If treating those stands is determined to have greater benefits than costs to the northern spotted owl, a new NEPA decision would be signed to implement the project in those units. This FEIS analyzes the entire project, including the deferred treatments. The modified alternative with fewer acres of treatment is covered under the analysis in this FEIS. Effects to resources from the proposed action with the modifications described above would be less than the effects of the whole project as analyzed under the FEIS. Two supplements have been prepared to explain how Alternative 2 with modifications would affect the socio-economics of the project and meet the fuels purpose and need. The supplements are attached to the specialist reports. The specialist reports are available in the project record and on the project website.



The analysis for this project was completed under the HFRA authority. The decision(s) based on the FEIS for this project will be made following the pre-decisional objection process, pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 218.7. The objection period will end 30-days following publication of the legal notice in the Redding Record Searchlight newspaper, which is expected to occur on June 4, 2012. The publication date of the legal notice of availability is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection (36 CFR 218.10 (a)).

Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if raised after completion of the FEIS. An objection may only be filed by persons, organizations or entities that have provided comments on the project prior to the close of the comment period. Objections received, including the names and addresses of those who object, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection during the objection period (36 CFR 218.8 (a)).

Any objections to this project must be filed in writing. Written objections may be submitted to: Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592, (707) 562-8737. Objections may be submitted by FAX (707)562-9229 or by hand-delivery to the Regional Office at the address above during normal business hours (Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm). Objections may be submitted in electronic form to: appeals-pacificsouthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us. In electronic objections, the subject line should contain the name of the project. Electronic objections must be readable in MS Word, Rich Text Format (rtf), or portable document format (PDF). Any objection must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 218.8. Any decision on this project will not be appealable under 36 CFR 215 or any other authority.

For more information on this project, contact Keli McElroy at the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Supervisor's Office in Redding, CA at (530)226-2354.



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