



File Code: 1950
Date: May 1, 2015

Dear SOPA respondents and other interested individuals, organizations, and agencies

The Almanor Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest is initiating scoping for the Grizzly Restoration project. Enclosed is a copy of the proposed action, purpose and need, and decision to be made. We are proposing treatments over approximately 3,370 acres, primarily in the Scotts John/Humbug Summit area of the Lassen National Forest. The proposed actions would implement restoration opportunities identified in watershed analysis and stream surveys. We would decrease stand density by removing conifers and applying prescribed fire. Trees would also be removed to enhance meadows and aspen stands, and support research proposals. A quarry would be developed to provide surfacing materials needed for road maintenance and watershed improvements. The proposed actions include mechanical and hand thinning, machine and hand piling, pile burning, and underburning.

The Grizzly Restoration Project is subject to the Pre-decisional Administrative Review (Objection) process described under 36 CFR 218 (published 3/27/2013 in the Federal Register), subparts A & B for non-Healthy Forests Restoration Act projects. To be eligible to object to an environmental assessment (EA) under this regulation, an individual or organization must *submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or any other public comment period established by the responsible official* (36 CFR 218.5(a)). A 30-day legal notice and comment period will be provided for this project. A 45-day objection period prior to a decision being made will follow, rather than a post-decisional appeal period.

I request your comments as they relate to the proposed action and identification of any issues (point of discussion, debate, or dispute) about the anticipated effects from this proposed action. I also request that you respond in writing before June 4, 2015, so your input can be considered as we move into the next phase of the NEPA process. Your response must be in writing to have standing during the objection period for this project.

Comments, written or oral, may be submitted to me, Kathleen Nelson, District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, 900 E. Highway 36, PO Box 767, Chester, CA 96020, 530-258-2141, or by facsimile to 530-258-5194, during normal business hours. The Almanor Ranger District business hours are from 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. Electronic comments, in acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or Word (.doc) formats, may be submitted to: comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen-almanor@fs.fed.us with Subject: Grizzly Restoration Project.

A decision regarding this proposal is expected in February 2016. Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process. For more information on the project, please contact Blair Halbrooks, District NEPA Coordinator, by phone at (530) 258-5160.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN NELSON
District Ranger

Enclosure: Grizzly Restoration Project Proposed Action/Purpose and Need, map packet

