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Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for the project remains as described in Chapter 1, pages through 11, of the FEIS. The draft SEIS will provide additional analysis and supplemental information specific to the development of a reasonable range of alternatives.

As noted in the FEIS (page 4) under Purpose and Need: The need for action was determined by comparing existing conditions in the field with the desired future condition as described in the Forest Plan (pages 4–165 through 4–168) for the Wildwood Management Area. Existing conditions were identified from extensive field review, computer modeling of fuels reduction treatments and wildfire behavior/effects and interdisciplinary planning. The interdisciplinary team identified several resource conditions where desired conditions described in the Forest Plan differ from the existing condition. The following existing conditions, with associated management goals, describe the purpose and need and are the basis for the proposed action:

- Excessive fuel accumulations and fuel ladders. There is a need to reduce the risk of losing existing and developing late-successional habitat due to wildfire and a need to use fire as a tool to maintain lower fuel loading.

- Insufficient amount of late-successional habitat. There is a need to encourage or accelerate the development of contiguous late-successional and old growth habitat.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would reduce fuels in the wildland urban interface and intermix areas adjacent to the rural community of Wildwood, California, and support the development of contiguous high quality old-growth habitat in the Chanchellula Late-Successional Reserve.

The proposed action, summarized below, encompasses a total of 1,618 acres.

- Thinning from below on approximately 1,279 acres of mixed conifer forest, which includes 300 acres of thinning within Riparian Reserve land allocation.
- Thinning from below on approximately 268 acres of mixed conifer forest to reconstruct a 30-year-old ridgetop shaded fuelbreak.
- Thinning 20-year-old plantations including mastication and/or biomass removal on approximately 44 acres.
- Fuels hazard reduction on approximately 27 acres of mid-slope

fuel buffers adjacent to private land. Remove and pile by hand all snags 619 inches in diameter and dead ground fuels for burning.

- Logging systems include: Tractor—1266 acres, cable—142 acres, helicopter—139 acres.

The proposed action includes additional post-harvest fuel reduction in thinning and fuels break units which will be accomplished by hand piling and burning, mastication, and/or biomass removal. Connected road-related activities include approximately 23.6 miles of road reconstruction, 1.7 miles of temporary road and 12.1 miles of road decommissioning post-project. There would be no new system road construction.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

Lead Agency: USDA, Forest Service.

Responsible Official

J. Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Responsible Official will review the supplemental information and determine if modifications should be made to the decision presented in the April 16, 2009 ROD.

Scoping Process

Scoping is not required for supplements to environmental impact statements (40 CFR 1502.9(c)4).

Early Notice of Importance of Public Participation in Subsequent Environmental Review

A draft SETS will be prepared for review and comment. A legal notice will be published in the newspaper of record. A notice of availability will be published in the **Federal Register** to inform the public that the draft SETS is available for review. The draft SETS will be distributed to all holders of the April 2009 FEIS and ROD for the project, including those parties that appealed the April 2009 decision. The comment period on the draft SEIS will be 45 days from the publication date of the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

Timely submittal of comments on the draft SEIS ensures they can be meaningfully considered and responded to in the final SEIS. To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the project, comments on the draft SETS should be as specific as possible. Comments should refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft SEIS. Comments

may also address the adequacy of the draft SETS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. In addressing these points, reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3.

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 (per 40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.22).

Dated: September 30, 2009.

J. Sharon Heywood,

Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

[FR Doc. E9–24145 Filed 10–7–09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Red Bluff, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Chairman's Perspective, (5) FY09 RAC Proposal Voting, (6) Next Agenda.

DATES: The meeting will be held on October 15, 2009 from 9 a.m. and end at approximately 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Street School, Pine Room, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Randy Jero, Committee Coordinator, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randy Jero, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988. (530) 934–1269; E-mail rjero@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will

be provided and individuals who made written requests by October 13, 2009 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.

Dated: October 2, 2009.

Eduardo Olmedo,

Designated Federal Official.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Newspapers To Be Used for Publication of Legal Notice of Appealable Decisions and Publication of Notice of Proposed Actions for Southern Region; Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, West Virginia, Arkansas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Puerto Rico

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Deciding Officers in the Southern Region will publish notice of decisions subject to administrative appeal under 36 CFR parts 215 and 217 in the legal notice section of the newspapers listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. As provided in 36 CFR part 215.5 and 36 CFR part 217.5(d), the public shall be advised through **Federal Register** notice, of the newspaper of record to be utilized for publishing legal notice of decisions. Newspaper publication of notice of decisions is in addition to direct notice of decisions to those who have requested it and to those who have participated in project planning. Responsible Officials in the Southern Region will also publish notice of proposed actions under 36 CFR part 215 in the newspapers that are listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. As provided in 36 CFR 215.5, the public shall be advised, through **Federal Register** notice, of the newspaper of record to be utilized for publishing notices on proposed actions. Additionally, the Deciding Officers in the Southern Region will publish notice of the opportunity to object to a proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project under 36 CFR part 218.4 or developing, amending or revising land management plans under 36 CFR 219.9 in the legal notice section of the newspapers listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

DATES: Use of these newspapers for purposes of publishing legal notice of

decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR parts 215 and 217, notices of proposed actions under 36 CFR part 215, and notices of the opportunity to object under 36 CFR 218 and 36 CFR 219 shall begin the first day after the date of this publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James W. Bennett, Regional Appeal Review Team Manager, Southern Region, Planning, 1720 Peachtree Road, NW., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Phone: 404/347-2788.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Deciding Officers in the Southern Region will give legal notice of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 217, the Responsible Officials in the Southern Region will give notice of decisions subject to appeal under 36 CFR part 215 and opportunity to object to a proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project under 36 CFR part 218 or developing, amending or revising land management plans under 36 CFR 219.9 in the following newspapers which are listed by Forest Service administrative unit. Responsible Officials in the Southern Region will also give notice of proposed actions under 36 CFR part 215 in the following newspapers of record which are listed by Forest Service administrative unit. The timeframe for comment on a proposed action shall be based on the date of publication of the notice of the proposed action in the newspaper of record. The timeframe for appeal shall be based on the date of publication of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record for 36 CFR parts 215 and 217. The timeframe for an objection shall be based on the date of publication of the legal notice of the opportunity to object for projects subject to 36 CFR part 218 or 36 CFR part 219.

Where more than one newspaper is listed for any unit, the first newspaper listed is the newspaper of record that will be utilized for publishing the legal notice of decisions and calculating timeframes. Secondary newspapers listed for a particular unit are those newspapers the Deciding Officer/Responsible Official expects to use for purposes of providing additional notice.

The following newspapers will be used to provide notice.

Southern Region

Regional Forester Decisions

Affecting National Forest System lands in more than one Administrative unit of the 15 in the Southern Region, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, published daily in Atlanta, GA. Affecting National Forest System lands in only one Administrative unit or only one Ranger

District will appear in the newspaper of record elected by the National Forest, National Grassland, National Recreation Area, or Ranger District as listed below.

National Forests in Alabama, Alabama

Forest Supervisor Decisions

Affecting National Forest System lands in more than one Ranger District of the 6 in the National Forests in Alabama, Montgomery Advertiser, published daily in Montgomery, AL. Affecting National Forest System lands in only one Ranger District will appear in the newspaper of record elected by the Ranger District as listed below.

District Ranger Decisions

Bankhead Ranger District: Northwest Alabamian, published bi-weekly (Wednesday & Saturday) in Haleyville, AL.

Conecuh Ranger District: The Andalusia Star News, published daily (Tuesday through Saturday) in Andalusia, AL.

Oakmulgee Ranger District: The Tuscaloosa News, published daily in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Shoal Creek Ranger District: The Anniston Star, published daily in Anniston, AL.

Talladega Ranger District: The Daily Home, published daily in Talladega, AL.

Tuskegee Ranger District: Tuskegee News, published weekly (Thursday) in Tuskegee, AL.

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Georgia

Forest Supervisor Decisions

The Times, published daily in Gainesville, GA.

District Ranger Decisions

Blue Ridge Ranger District: The News Observer (newspaper of record) published bi-weekly (Tuesday & Friday) in Blue Ridge, GA.

North Georgia News, (newspaper of record) published weekly (Wednesday) in Blairsville, GA.

The Dahlonega Nuggett, (secondary) published weekly (Wednesday) in Dahlonega, GA.

Towns County Herald, (secondary) published weekly (Thursday) in Hiawassee, GA.

Conasauga Ranger District: Daily Citizen, published daily in Dalton, GA.

Chattooga River Ranger District: The Northeast Georgian, (newspaper of record) published bi-weekly (Tuesday & Friday) in Cornelia, GA.

Clayton Tribune, (newspaper of record) published weekly (Thursday) in Clayton, GA.