

TWO GOATS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

Introduction

The Sacramento Ranger District interdisciplinary (ID) team has reviewed existing conditions in the proposed Two Goats Fuels Reduction project area and identified opportunities to treat vegetation to reduce current high fuel hazards while improving wildlife habitat and timber stands.

The pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir stands in the project area are overly dense and continuous and could lead to high intensity wildfires that could be difficult to control and protect adjacent private lands and property.

The project area includes approximately 5,350 acres. The project area is bordered on the north by the community of High Rolls, on the west by the Westside Road, on the east by Karr Canyon road and on the south by private lands and Alamo Peak. Based on the Lincoln National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LMP), the area is covered by portions of Management Areas 2B, 2E and 2F and portions of Dry Canyon, Alamo Canyon and Fresno Canyon watersheds. The legal location is T16 S, R 11 E, Sec. 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, and T 17S, R 11E Sec. 3, 4, 5.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need for the Two Goats Fuels Reduction project is to:

- Implement activities to move towards reintroducing fire into fire adapted ecosystems.
- Reduce hazardous fuels through the implementation of tools such as pile burning, broadcast burning, or mastication in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) treatment areas to provide for defensible space adjacent to private property.
- Improve wildlife habitat for mule deer.
- Improve timber stands resiliency to fire, insects and disease through the implementation of tools such as commercial, mechanical, or hand thinning treatments.

This purpose and need would meet direction in the LMP for fire, wildlife and timber and the goals outlined in the Otero County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The project area was broken into smaller treatment blocks to allow for different treatments in specific areas and to create treatment blocks of a size that would be easier to manage during implementation. The summary table below outlines by treatment block, the activities being proposed and Figure 2 is the map of the proposed treatment blocks.

Proposed Action Description

Table 1. Summary of Two Goats Proposed Action Treatment Blocks

Treatment Block	Estimate Total Acres/Miles	
Block A – North WUI (adjacent to High Rolls) and Defense Zone Buffer (DZB).	Mastication in Block A-DZB	271 acres
	Mechanical / Hand-thin / pile/burn / Rx fire in Block A-DZB	35 acres
	Mastication within Block A	497 acres
	Mechanical / Hand-thin / pile/burn / Rx fire within Block A	119 acres
	Total acres Block A and DZB	922 acres
	Total miles of Block A-DZB	5.5 miles
Block Aa - FS Trail #132 Fuel break	Mastication in Block Aa	79 acres
	Mechanical / Hand-thin / pile/burn / Rx fire in Block Aa	53 acres
	Total acres Block Aa	132 acres
	Total miles of Block Aa	2.0 miles
Block B – Main Ridge	Prescribed fire	300 acres
Block C – Main Ridge	Prescribed fire	838 acres
Block D – Main Ridge	Prescribed fire	354 acres
Block E – Main Ridge	Prescribed fire	398 acres
Treatment Block	Estimate Total Acres/Miles	
Block F – Main Ridge	Prescribed fire	1,353 acres
Block G – Alamo Canyon Municipal Watershed	Mastication (and potential Mechanical / Hand-thin / pile/burn / Rx fire) in Block G	112 acres
	Total acres Block G	112 acres
Block H – Main Ridge	Prescribed fire	507 acres
Block Hh – FS Trail #109 Fuel Break	Mechanical / Hand-thin / pile/burn / Rx fire in Block Hh	54 acres
	Total miles of Block Hh	2.0 miles
Block I – Alamo Peak Communications Site	Mechanical / Hand-thin / pile/burn / Rx fire in Block I	46 acres
Block Ii – FS Road #640 Alamo Peak Access	Mastication / mechanical / hand-thin / pile and burn / Rx fire in Block Ii	42 acres
	Total acres Block Ii	42 acres
	Total miles of Block Ii	0.6 miles
Block J – Timber Improvement Area	Timber stand treatments	132 acres
Block K – Karr Canyon Road	Mastication in Block K	44 acres
	Mechanical / Hand-thin / pile/burn / Rx fire in Block K	84 acres
	Total acres Block K	128 acres
	Total miles of Block K	1.7 miles
Block L – Karr Picnic Area	Mechanical / Hand-thin / pile/burn / Rx fire in Block L	8 acres
Summary Totals		
	Total Miles Handline Construction	8.3 miles
	Total Miles of “linear” buffer treatments	11.8 miles
	Total Acres Timber Stand Treatments	132 acres
	Total Acres of Mastication Treatments	1,041 acres
	Total Acres of Mechanical / Hand Thin/Pile/Burn / Rx Fire	403 acres
	Total Acres of Prescribed Aerial Fire (may include some mechanical / Hand Thin/ Pile/Burn acres also)	3,770 acres
	Grand Total Acres all Treatment Blocks¹	5,346 acres
¹ Note that the actual acres of “wildlife openings” are distributed within the other treatment blocks and the exact location of those openings are not known and are not defined on the project maps. The estimated total acres for “wildlife openings” could be approximately 700 acres. This is the amount of acres that can be administratively managed using a service contract to implement per past experience by the Ranger District.		

Figure 2. Map of Two Goats Fuels project area showing treatment blocks.

