

Atoma Salvage Project

Carson Ranger District

Scoping Document

The Humboldt -Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District, is proposing to remove mountain pine beetle (MPB) infested lodgepole and western white pine trees and adjacent patches of un-infested trees to reduce MPB infestation levels and ultimately improve overall stand vigor. Fuels reduction will also be accomplished through removal of dead material and underburning the area. This project, the Atoma Salvage Project, is approximately 100 acres in size and located in Washoe County, Nevada, approximately 15 miles south of Reno, across from the Mt. Rose Ski Resort. The legal description is T.17N., R.19E., sections 18 and 19, Mount Diablo Meridian. Access to the stand is via State Route 431 (Mt. Rose Highway).

The project area contains dense stands of lodgepole pine with scattered red fir and western white pine. Mountain Pine Beetle have infested groups of lodgepole pine and scattered single trees of western white pine. Removal of MPB infested trees and other trees in dense areas will help increase tree species diversity and ultimately improve tree and stand vigor and reduce the susceptibility of future MPB infestations.

The proposed action is to remove dead and currently infested lodgepole and western white pine trees. Remove small patches of lodgepole pine, up to one acre in size, and thin remaining lodgepole pine trees to decrease tree densities and reduce the susceptibility of mountain pine beetle related mortality. Use prescribed fire to reduce fuels, remove ladder fuels and invading red fir, and treat limbs and tops from removed trees. Prescribe burn the area with low intensity fire during periods of low fire danger, using Forest Service crews working under an approved burn plan.

The sale of personal use firewood permits may be employed to remove green, dead and infested trees. The existing road network will be used, however up to ½ mile of temporary road may be needed to access the proposed treatment area. Any new roads will be closed and obliterated after harvest activities. A Forest Service Fuelwood Administrator will monitor harvest activities.

Send comments to:

Carson Ranger District

Attn: Atoma Salvage Project

1536 S. Carson Street

Carson City, NV 89701

To be used most effectively in our planning process, comments should be received by July 16th, 2007. If you have questions or need further information please contact Amanda Brinnand at 775-882-2766.