

Last Chance Fuels Reduction Project

Purpose and Need

Why here -

The National Fire Plan and the Cohesive Strategy, developed after the severe wildfire season in 2000, provide direction to reduce fuel loadings in fire-prone forests to protect people and sustain resources. The wildland-urban interface, areas where flammable wildland fuels are near homes and communities, is one of the highest priorities for treatment. Grizzly Flat was included in a national 2001 list of urban-interface communities that are at high-risk from wildfire.

Additionally, the Record of Decision for the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, which amended the Eldorado National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan in January 2001, sets priorities for management activities that will restore natural ecosystem processes while minimizing the threat fire poses to lives, structures, and resources. The amendment was designed to bring greater consistency to fire and fuels management across the eleven Sierra Nevada National Forests. Following this direction, the Placerville Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest has identified specific wildfire hazards to the community of Grizzly Flat and outlying residences. In the event of wildfire originating within or outside the community, threats to both life and property can be anticipated.

The topography, access, and weather patterns in the Grizzly Flat area dictate that primary fire suppression efforts in the event of a large wildfire would be along the major ridges and roads. These are the areas where it becomes critical to thin and reduce fuel loadings to provide safer areas where fire suppression resources can be safely and effectively deployed. While fuel treatments do not "fire proof" an area, strategically placed treatments can, manipulate stand structure and reduce surface fuels, the two factors that contribute most to crown fire initiation and sustained crown fire spread.

The Last Chance Fuels Reduction Project addresses treatments on National Forest System lands, however, it has been designed to function in coordination with treatments on privately owned lands. Some treatments have been accomplished on both private and public lands. The owners of Leoni Meadows have treated approximately 400 acres of their property. The Last Chance fuels treatments would provide the mutual benefit of expanding these treatments by treating along public/private boundaries. There is high interest in the community to expand treatments of private property, working in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council.

The project would link together and enhance fuels reduction work planned or accomplished on the National Forest. Fuels reduction work associated with the Ridgerunner, Tie Die, Nelly, Last Fiddle, Second Fiddle, and Lincoln Log timber sales have accomplished 585 acres of understory burning, 1,140 acres of mastication and piling, and 2235 acres of understory thinning. These treatments are primarily on the ridges and south to west facing slopes. Other projects are being planned to provide increased plantation protection from wildfires, in the form of brush reduction on approximately 630 acres of young conifer plantations within the Last Chance project area.

Within the Last Chance project areas there are 935 acres designated as Protected Activity Centers (PACs) for the California Spotted Owl, and 425 acres of PACs for the Northern Goshawk. Treatment of fuels adjacent to these critical wildlife habitats is important to reduce the potential for high intensity wildfire to enter these areas until they can be restored to a more fire resilient condition. The PACs that are located in close proximity to developed areas are within the Defense Zone. It is critical to treat strategic portions of these PACs to provide greater protection for the community and for the untreated portions of the PACs.

The Last Chance Fuels Reduction Project covers portions of five watersheds: Clear Creek, Dogtown Creek, Lower Lower Middle Fork Cosumnes River, Upper Steely Fork Cosumnes, and Lower Steely Fork Cosumnes River. All of these watersheds, with the exception of the Lower Steely Fork Cosumnes, are considered to be at low to moderate risk of adverse cumulative watershed effects (CWEs).

The Lower Steely Fork Cosumnes River watershed includes the Grizzly Flat community, and over seventy percent of the watershed is in private ownership. Nearly 50 percent of the private lands are zoned for residential development. Numerically, the CWE model indicates that this watershed is at a very high or extreme risk level for adverse CWE since the disturbance is 98% of threshold. This is due primarily to its location within the “urban interface” with corresponding moderate level of development on private lands. Most of the development is along the ridgetop and upper slopes of the watershed. Typically, adverse CWE would be apparent within degraded conditions in stream channels in the affected watershed. Field surveys have shown that the stream channels are presently in relatively good condition with a few localized problems. This is likely due to the undisturbed areas between the upper slopes and the stream. The entire Steely Fork Cosumnes area is highly susceptible to catastrophic fire. It is highly unlikely that a catastrophic wildfire would burn only the watershed, but continue burning throughout the adjacent area. Fire research indicates that the Sierra Nevada Range is at extreme risk for catastrophic wildfire (Skinner 1995, SNEP 1996). In the 1992 Cleveland Fire, the highest percentage of a whole watershed impacted was about 77%, with about 52% of that area burned at high intensity levels (USDA Forest Service 1993).

Although the Last Chance Fuels Reduction Project activities will contribute to the ERAs and numerically elevate the Lower Steely Fork Cosumnes River watershed over threshold, the post fire disturbance would be even higher if a catastrophic wildfire burned the watershed area. Typically wildfire conditions elevate disturbance levels significantly. However, in this case, the disturbance levels are already at a very high level and are concentrated on upper slopes. If a wildfire were to occur, the recovery times associated with the fire would be much longer than those associated with the project and the fire would cause a continuous disturbance from ridges to stream channels. The proposed Last Chance project would reduce these potential effects from a wildfire by breaking up the continuity of fuels. Implementation of project activities that would occur over a period of three to five years will prevent a large peak of disturbance to occur in any one year, thereby allowing the system time to adapt and recover from proposed activities.

Vegetative cover is critical for maintaining the hydrological functioning of any watershed. A large, high intensity fire within any of the watersheds in the Last Chance project area would have severe impacts on water quality. Hill slope stability would likely be reduced, and short-term increases in turbidity from fine, suspended sediment would occur. Aquatic systems and habitat may be temporarily degraded. Water temperatures would be affected in stream reaches where riparian vegetation mortality is high and tree canopy is consumed by fire.

There are several dead end roads accessing National Forest System lands in this area that were built to provide temporary access for logging operations, and were not designed to be left open. These roads were either not closed, or have been reopened, and now provide motorized access to remote sites, where illegal campfires and trash dumping (including household garbage, appliances, vehicles, tires, building materials, and large piles of yard waste) occur frequently. There is a need to close or gate these roads to limit vehicular traffic, to reduce the potential for human caused wildfires, to reduce trash dumping opportunities, and to reduce overall road densities to improve the watershed condition and wildlife habitat.

Why now-

The project area has not directly experienced a large wildfire within the last 42 years. The lack of fire has allowed dense vegetation and surface fuel loading to accumulate. The potential for a wildfire start

is high due to residential development, recreational use, and lightning. The proximity to a major river canyon (Middle Fork Cosumnes) exposes the area to an increased threat from fire starts down-canyon. The steep canyons, and dense fuels adjacent to this community have the potential to burn hot enough to prevent safe deployment of suppression resources for the protection of individual homes. Predicted fire behavior modeling of timber stands and representative fuel types indicates that high intensity fire with rapid rates of spread would be likely under moderate weather conditions.

Timber stands in this area were historically dependent on frequent low intensity fires. Fire suppression, starting in the early 1900s, has successfully excluded these historic fire intervals. The result has been a change in species composition, structure, and density. Dense, closed canopies tend to favor the regeneration of shade tolerant white fir, incense cedar, and Douglas fir, to the exclusion of shade intolerant ponderosa pines, oaks, and sugar pines. The shade tolerant species generally are more susceptible to mortality from fire, and form dense understories, which act as fuel ladders to the larger overstory trees. Thinning of the understory can increase the proportion of shade intolerant species, and increase the health and growth rates of the larger overstory trees.

Topography, vegetation (fuels) and weather are the three factors influencing fire behavior. In this area, the three are aligned for a potential catastrophic fire to occur. Topography is steep and inaccessible within the Steely Fork Cosumnes, Clear Creek, and Middle Fork Cosumnes drainages. Fuels are dense, and will readily support crown fires over much of the area, and the Mediterranean climate assures numerous days of weather conditions capable of fueling high intensity wildfires each year. The only factor we are able to affect is the fuel conditions through modification of the vegetation.

The following table displays the outcomes of fuels treatments recommended by the SNFPA standards and guidelines to achieve desired fire behavior, and the estimated existing conditions within the areas proposed for treatment.

Table 1: Fuel Treatment Outcomes

	<i>Height to Live Crown</i> Average distance from the ground fuel bed to the live crowns of the overstory trees.	<i>Flame Length</i> The estimate average length of flames during 90 th percentile weather conditions.	<i>Type of Fire Behavior</i>
Defense Zone Generally within ¼ mile of residential structure	Desired: 15' to 25' Existing: 2' to 8'	Desired: 4' to 6' Existing: 7' to 11'	Desired: Surface Existing: Passive to Active Crown Fire
Threat Zone Generally Within 1.5 miles of Defense Zone	Desired: 15' to 25' Existing: 2' to 8'	Desired: 4' to 6' Existing: 7' to 11'	Desired: Surface Existing: Passive to Active Crown Fire

Under existing conditions, a surface fire is likely to burn into the crowns of trees. Greater flame lengths and intensity would require the use of heavy tractors or indirect fire line construction and burnout operations.

Proposed Action

The Last Chance Fuels Reduction project is proposed to establish a system of fuel reduction zones along primary ridges in the Henry's Diggings and Leoni Meadow areas, south of Grizzly Flat, in El Dorado County, California. Treatments are designed to strategically connect in with fuel reduction work already accomplished along Caldor Railroad Grade, Plummer Ridge and in the Clear Creek area. The areas proposed for treatment form the base for establishing contiguous fuel treatments along ridges from the community of Grizzly Flat southeast to Leoni Meadow.

Location of Treatments

(See attached map for specific locations)

Map locations and acreages are estimates obtained from orthographic photos, maps and field reconnaissance. Actual acres typically change slightly, as final project layout is completed, and adjustments are made for site-specific conditions, although the total area treated is not likely to fluctuate more than 10%.

The project proposal is to create a defensible space by reducing fuels on approximately 1700 acres by thinning the understory on approximately 600 acres, masticating brush and burning piles on approximately 150 acres, hand pruning trees within 100 feet from private property on approximately 50 acres, and low intensity underburning on approximately 1300 acres.

The Proposed Action would comply with the Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) Environmental Impact Statement, as described in the SNFPA Record of Decision (ROD). Specifically, the proposed action is designed to meet objectives based on Forest wide standards and guidelines (ROD, pages A-25 to A-32), as well as land allocation standards and guidelines for Northern Goshawk and California Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs) (ROD, pages A-33 to 37), and Urban Wildland Intermix Defense and Threat Zone standards and guidelines (ROD pages A-46 and A-47).

The following actions and protective measures for potentially affected resources are directly related to the implementation of the actions described above.

A. Vegetation Treatments

In all stands, silvicultural prescriptions would be based on stand specific information and designed to meet SNFPA land allocation guidelines for the amount of the stand treated, residual live crown base height, and diameter limits. Generally, silvicultural goals for this area are to protect large trees, increase growth of medium sized trees, and remove smaller trees to reduce fuel ladders. Forest wide stand structure standards and guidelines pertaining to large trees, canopy cover, snags, and large down wood apply in all land allocations, and would be met where they currently exist. Species preference for residual trees in descending order of priority is: sugar pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir and incense cedar. Black oaks would not be designated for removal although some may be removed to facilitate operations. Snags which pose a hazard to treatment operations would be removed, or felled and left in log deficient areas.

Where necessary, concentrations of existing or activity generated fuels within the units would be treated by a combination of tractor piling with a brush rake, mastication with a brush shredder, and/or hand cutting and piling. Generally these acres occur where fuels have built up from previous tree mortality, but would also include pockets of decadent brush or thickets of suppressed small diameter trees. Tractor piling would also be utilized in smoke sensitive areas where smoke from burning tractor piles would dissipate more quickly than smoke from prescribed burns. Tractor piling would not occur within riparian conservation areas (RCAs), sensitive areas (such as heritage sites and sensitive plant habitat), or on slopes greater than 35%. Residual trees would be protected from mechanical damage. Piles would normally be burned in the fall and winter after adequate time for curing.

Post treatment evaluations of site-specific fuel conditions would be done to determine the need for follow-up prescribed burning. Prescribed understory burning would occur when weather conditions prescribed in the burn plan are met. Prescribed fire would be allowed to back into the RCAs, however, ignition would not occur in RCAs, except as needed to maintain control.

In preparation for prescribed fire some perimeter line construction may be needed where roads, trails, or natural barriers are absent. This would involve hand cutting of vegetation including trees up to 6-inch diameter, pruning, and scraping a bare soil control line. All fire lines would follow the established guidelines for water bar construction as outlined in the watershed Best Management Practices (BMPs). Hand lines visible from roads would be camouflaged by raking duff back to discourage use as a trail after burning.

Ground cover objectives for prescribed burns are determined by the LRMP and through consultation with resource specialists. Several years of BMP monitoring of prescribed fire projects indicate that ground cover objectives are being met by implementation of current burn plans. Post burn observations of ground cover and soil stability would be conducted to determine if additional action is needed.

Burn prescription parameters would be designed to achieve a fire with an average of 4 foot or less flame lengths. Burn objectives also include protection of sensitive features such as archaeological sites, sensitive plant populations, nest trees, specific snags or down logs, oak trees, streamside zones, structures, and other improvements. Site-specific prescriptions would be developed for these areas, and range from keeping fire out completely, to allowing fire to burn through but retaining the important features.

Mechanical treatment units 121, 227, 232, 237, 246, 247, 259, 268, 269, and 277 are fully or partially within California Spotted Owl (CSO) or Northern Goshawk PACs. These units are also within the defense zone. Mechanical treatments would occur except within the 500' radius buffer around the activity center. Prescribed fire and preparatory hand treatments are allowed in the 500' buffer. Prior to burning, hand treatments, including handline construction, tree pruning, and cutting small trees less than 6 inches in diameter, are allowed within a 1 to 2 acre area surrounding known nest trees as needed to protect these trees (ROD, p. A-35). In CSO PACs that are outside of the defense zone (units 290, 302, 303, 304, 616, 623, and 646) mechanical treatments would not occur. Prescribed fire, with an average flame length of 4' or less, and preparatory hand treatments are planned. Prior to burning, hand treatments (including handline construction, tree pruning, and cutting small trees less than 6 inches in diameter) are allowed within a 1 to 2 acre area surrounding known nest trees as needed to protect these trees (ROD, p. A-35).

B. Air Quality

A smoke permit would be issued for this project by El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District. To reduce effects of prescribed burns on air quality, smoke control and monitoring measures would be identified in the Smoke Management Plan. Avoidance (not burning when smoke would not disperse well, or would carry into sensitive areas), dilution (reducing smoke concentrations by staggering ignitions, or burning when there is good lift and dispersion), and emission-reduction strategies would be utilized.

Desirable meteorological conditions such as favorable winds and an unstable or neutral atmosphere, would be required in the project's smoke management plan to facilitate venting and dispersion of smoke from the project area. Piles with larger materials would be cured for a minimum of 90 days. Smaller sized material would cure 30 to 45 days to reduce the duration of smoke emissions.

C. Visual Resources

Blackened trees that negatively affect the viewshed would be felled.

D. Heritage Resources

Archaeological sites in the project area would be protected from ground disturbance associated with mechanical and hand treatments during all phases of this project. A full listing of these sites can be found in the project file. Sites in units or near road maintenance/reconstruction projects would be identified with flagging and avoided during project activities. Sites that are flammable (i.e. cabins, corrals, fences, flumes, trestles) would be protected during prescribed burning. All sites would be avoided during fire line construction.

E. Terrestrial Wildlife

A limited operating period (LOP) for California spotted owls would be in effect from March 1 through August 31, for units within ¼ mile of spotted owl activity centers, unless surveys confirm that owls are not nesting. A LOP for northern goshawks would be in effect from February 15 through September 15, within ¼ mile of goshawk nesting areas, unless surveys confirm that goshawks are not nesting.

An LOP for mule deer would be in effect from October 15 through April 15 for units within critical winter range. An exception to the mule deer LOP (March 15 versus April 15) would be used for the west end of the project area to accommodate burning conditions to treat decadent brush fields. If adverse winter conditions occur during the year(s) of the planned burn(s) and cause deer to remain in these areas past March 31, the LOP time frame would be re-evaluated by the wildlife biologist to assess if the standard LOP of April 15 is needed to avoid disturbance.

LOPs generally apply to all project activities except use and maintenance of forest roads. Additional activities may be permitted, such as handwork, dependent on a site-specific analysis of species status. Consult with wildlife biologist prior to burning to determine presence of TES and/or species of concern. Burning would be postponed if it is determined potential adverse impacts to these species would occur.

Project design would increase diversity of age classes of brush and oak species to enhance habitat for deer, quail, and neo-tropical migratory birds.

F. Fish and Aquatic Species

Riparian Conservation Objectives (RCOs) would be applied within Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) to protect habitat for aquatic species, including the Sensitive species of western pond turtles and foothill yellow-legged frogs. No mechanical treatments would occur, and no piles would be created, within the 600 foot wide RCAs along Steely Fork Cosumnes and Clear Creek. No ignition for underburning (except that necessary to maintain control of the underburn) would occur within these RCAs.

Water drafting guidelines described in the Transportation section would protect fish and amphibians. Water holes would be inspected by a fisheries biologist for existing frogs and tadpoles before water withdrawal for dust abatement.

G. Sensitive Plant Protection

Within the project area, there are three occurrences of Pleasant Valley mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *avius*) or CACLA, which would be monitored and flagged prior to implementation to ensure that the sites are not disturbed by equipment. If any other sensitive plant occurrences are discovered during project implementation their habitat would also be flagged and avoided during project activities and the locations reported to the Forest botanist and Placerville District biologist. Lava caps within the project area would be protected from motorized vehicles and equipment. No tractors or other equipment would be allowed to enter these unique habitats.

Mulch or straw used for vegetative soil stabilization would be certified weed free. Weed-free rice straw is readily available and is the preferred mulch for this project. Any seed used for restoration or

erosion control would be from a locally collected source (ENF Seed, Mulch and Fertilizer Prescription, March 21, 2000).

H. Noxious Weeds

The project area has been surveyed for noxious weeds. Two occurrences of skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) and a single scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) site have been documented. A Noxious Weed Risk Assessment has been written (ENF 2002). This assessment looked at the current infestation sites and determined areas of potential invasion/spread from natural, non-project and project related activities. Known occurrences, as well as these potential infestation areas would be analyzed for treatment in the EA. In order to prevent expansion, and eradicate existing infestations, various treatment methods would be utilized.

The prevention and eradication strategy includes the following:

- All off-road equipment would be cleaned to insure it is free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter or other debris before entering National Forest system land if it is known to have most recently operated in an area infested with noxious weeds, or if the last operating location is unknown. In addition, clean equipment prior to moving from an infested treatment unit, to a unit that is free of such weeds.
- Locations of any new infestations of noxious weeds, would be mapped and documented. New sites would be treated by hand pulling or lopping (late summer/early fall lopping treatments have been shown to minimize resprouting).
- Post fuels treatment surveys would be conducted at the documented sites. Grub or hand-pulled populations prior to seed-set. Where appropriate, seeding of weed-treated areas with native grass species would be done to reduce, through competition, further weed establishment or expansion of existing infestations.

I. Soils and Hydrology

Implementation of measures to ensure protection of soil resources and long-term soil productivity (R5 Soil Quality Standards), are derived from "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) and input provided by the IDT for this project. A listing of the BMPs, to be implemented, is in the project file. Soil monitoring following treatment activities would be completed to confirm effectiveness of applicable BMPs.

Large woody material requirements would be satisfied by meeting SNFPA standards for down log retention. The SNFPA standard of at least 10 tons per acre of the largest down logs available would be maintained within mechanical treatment units, except in areas where existing levels are less than that (5 30" x 32' logs = 10 tons). Where possible, these large down logs would be protected during mechanical treatment activities, and underburning. Class 1 and 2 logs would be recruited from cull logs where they are available.

To control erosion rates, and the resulting sediment delivery, ground cover and fine organic matter would be maintained as follows: a minimum of 40 percent on units with less than 15 percent slope, 60 percent on units with 15 to 30 percent slopes, and 70 percent on units with slopes over 30 percent and in RCAs. The percent of organic matter would vary depending on the amount available on site or on the site capability. Mechanical treatment activities would be restricted and/or controlled during high soil moisture conditions. The specific restrictions needed would depend on the type of equipment being used and on the condition of the area at the time (e.g. if the ground is covered with slash, some equipment use may be allowed). The type of restrictions applied by the project administrator may include: allowing several days of drying after precipitation prior to resuming activities; restricting motorized equipment to skid trails; or limiting operations to loading and hauling. All applicable BMPs

would be implemented to prevent the concentration of waterflows that could increase rill and gully formation.

No new landings would be constructed within RCAs. No existing landing within an RCA would be used if unstable. After use, landings would be scarified, shaped, and ditched as needed to minimize soil displacement, and facilitate revegetation; and replanted.

Wet areas or seeps would be avoided by and buffered from all mechanical and fuels treatment activities. Consultation with a geologist or hydrologist would be conducted prior to implementation to assure that hydrological functioning is maintained.

For seasonal streams: The RCA would be 150 feet on each side of the stream. Mechanical treatments are allowed in the outer 100 feet of the RCA. The “arm” of a feller buncher (or similar equipment) may be extended into the inner 50 feet to remove trees. Skid trails would not be constructed within RCAs, although some existing trails may be used within RCAs where construction of an additional trail would result in additional disturbance. Equipment would be excluded where slopes within or adjacent to the RCA exceed 30 percent, and within the inner 50 feet of stream RCAs. Designated streamcourse crossings would be agreed to by the project administrator and the operator prior to construction or use. No pile burning would occur within the inner 50 feet of RCAs. Underburning may occur in RCAs as long as fire is allowed to back down toward the stream, and no ignition occurs within riparian vegetation. Avoid constructing hand lines within the RCA, however if needed to control the fire, then hand lines should be raked over to cover bare soil and reduce runoff.

For perennial streams: The RCA would be 300 feet on either side. When the stream or portions of the stream course is within the inner gorge area (adjacent to slopes greater than 70% gradient), then the top of the inner gorge (as defined by the geomorphology map) would define the RCA. No ground disturbing activities, or pile burning would occur within the RCA except hand cutting of vegetation. Underburning would occur within the Steely Fork Cosumnes RCA. The fire would back down toward the stream, no ignition would occur (except that necessary to maintain control of the underburn) within the RCA and burning would occur under high fuel moisture conditions.

J. Transportation

The primary access into the area is via the El Dorado County road system of Caldor Railroad Grade (9N45), 9N65, and Grizzly/Caldor Road (9N73). Access to unit 291 is dependent on the Forest Service acquiring rights of way from private landowners. No new road construction needs have been identified. Short temporary roads (low standard roads, which are obliterated after use) may be needed where landings are located away from existing roads. No temporary roads would be constructed within RCAs without consultation with a hydrologist. Obliterate all nonsystem roads.

Maintenance of system roads used by this project would generally consist of the following:

Brushing - Cut and prune brush and small trees along roads 9N65, 9N65A, 9N65B, 9N65C, 9N65D, 9N65E, 9N45, 9N61, and portions of 9N59. Dispose of slash by chipping, scattering, or piling and burning.

Drainage – Existing ditches and culverts would be cleaned out. Additional dips or waterbars would be constructed as needed. Road surfaces would be bladed and compacted.

Dust Abatement and Water Drafting - Water would be used on native surface roads to maintain surface fines, minimize fugitive dust, and maintain surface compaction. Existing water holes, and other sites such as ponds, lakes, or streams, used for water drafting would be inspected by a fisheries biologist or hydrologist for existing amphibians and flow levels prior to use. A Forest Service approved screen covered drafting box, or other device to create a low entry velocity (RCO #4, SNFP ROD p. A-56), would be used while drafting to minimize removal of aquatic species, including juvenile fish, amphibian egg masses and tadpoles, from aquatic habitats. Drafting would be from the

deepest water source, near the bottom. The fisheries biologist would be notified if any type of water additive would be applied to roads.

Skid Trails - The project administrator would approve skid trail systems in each unit. Existing skid trails would be used if appropriate, to limit the extent of additional soil compaction. Erosion control measures would be constructed after completing operations in each unit. Skid roads and landings would be ripped or subsoiled, and/or mulched with slash or weed free straw, to alleviate soil compaction and erosion problems, restore infiltration, and discourage OHV use. Culverts would be assessed for proper functioning prior to road closures.

The transportation analysis and road closure plan identified seven roads that should be closed to travel (maintenance level 1), but are currently open to vehicle traffic. These roads would be stabilized by waterbarring or other erosion control measures to assure proper drainage, and closed to vehicle traffic by gates, guardrail barricades, boulders and/or obliteration.

Table 2: Proposed Road Closures

Road Designator	Current Status	Proposed Status	Method of Closure	Coordinating Requirements
9N57	Open	Closed	2 Gates	Remove gates on 9N57A & 9N57B
9N57A	Closed	Decommission	Berm	Replace gate with berm
9N57B	Closed	Decommission	Berm	Replace gate with berm
9N59B	Open	Decommission	Berm	
9N61A	Closed	Decommission	Gate	Decommission after project
9N73B	Open	Decommission	Gate	Decommission portion of road behind gate
9N73C	Open	Decommission	Berm	

Two waterholes would be reconstructed:

Waterhole located off 9N57 – rehabilitate the spring adjacent to the waterhole, restore the stream channel above, adjacent, and below the waterhole, install an outlet in the waterhole, rock the loading pad, and install a barrier near the stream channel to prevent vehicle entry.

Drafting site on the Steely Fork of the Cosumnes (located off 9N59) – obliterate the portion of the road north of the Steely Fork that is on the National Forest; barricade either end of the road; remove the cement crossing at the drafting site; restrict vehicle access at the drafting site and parking area next to the river.

Alternative 2 – No Action

No actions would be initiated for treatment of vegetation on National Forest System lands in the analysis area. Current management practices, such as road maintenance, firewood cutting, and fire suppression, would continue. Public scoping and education programs have been initiated in the Grizzly Flat area, in conjunction with the CDF and the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. Increased fuels treatments on private lands are anticipated as an indirect result.