Figueroa Mountain Project Proposed Treatments

refer to Map

Block A 198 Acre
Block B 142 Acres
Block D 215 Acres

Proposals include reducing tree densities by selectively thinning in Coulter and ponderosa pine conifer stands. An emphasis would be to maintain representation of all conifer and/hardwood tree and brush species. Where feasible, openings (1/4-1/2 acre in size will be created to allow for creation and development of replacement conifers. Within the Figueroa Campground, pruning of existing trees to at least 10 feet above the ground would occur. Chainsaws and a masticator would be used. Where feasible, forest products and campground firewood would be made available. In other areas the felled trees and brush would be limbed, concentrated and/or scattered, followed by a combination of jackpot burning/pile burning/broadcast burning.

Block C 112 Acres

Thinning of some ponderosa and Coulter pine trees with diameters of 12" and below is proposed to reduce tree crown densities, address dwarf mistletoe infections, tree competition, ladder fuels, and favor the existing larger pines. In addition, felling and removal of some of the dead and dying trees of all sizes/ages would be proposed. A masticator along with chainsaws would fell/limb and pile trees. Where feasible concentrated material would be made available for forest products. In other areas the felled trees would be limbed, concentrated and/or scattered followed by a combination of jackpot burning/pile burning/broadcast burning.

Common to All Treatment Blocks

- Inter-planting of native seedlings of the Coulter pine, ponderosa pine and big-cone Douglas-fir forest types would occur in areas where natural stand regeneration is inadequate due to insect/disease losses

- Borax (*presently registered as SPORAX*) would be applied to freshly cut conifer stumps for control of annosus root rot disease (*Hertobasidium annososum*).

- Periodic maintenance using underburning would occur in treated blocks following mechanical reduction of biomass.

Definitions for Proposed Activities Listed Within the Project Area

Selective Thinning - selection and removal of trees to change species composition, reduce stand densities, raise the average crown base height to improve long term stand health and increase resilience to insects/disease and wildfire. Thinning would be "from below", removing suppressed and intermediate trees first, and only removing co-dominants where needed to meet desired stocking/density or species mixtures.

Understory Thinning - reduction of the youngest and or smallest age and size class of trees within the stand to reduce inter tree competition and decrease ladder fuel condition to reduce intensity of wildfire conditions.

Masticator - equipment used to shred brush, trees, and stumps. Attached to an excavator, tractor or dozer.

Machine Piling - piling of limbs, branches, brush, portions of trees by equipment with a blade and or grapples/tong attached. Used in areas where mechanized activities are proposed, where there is a lot of material to be piled, and/or where piles can be feasibly piled in designated locations. Piles are relatively dense/compact and ~20'x20' in size.

Hand Piling - piling of limbs branches brush, portions of trees by a hand crew. Used in areas where access is limited/prohibited for mechanized activities, where material to be piled occurs adjacent to felling activities and does not have to be in designated locations. Piles are relatively loose in construction and ~6'x6' in size.

Hand Pile Burning - burning of piles with hand crews using drip torches or propane torches to reduce accumulation of treated vegetation.

Jack Pot Burning - Hand crews utilize drip torches or propane torches to burn concentrations of down trees, limbs, branches, otherwise known as slash to reduce quantities of ground fuels created by thinning activities.

Broadcast Burning - a low-moderate intensity prescribed "underburn" in which 50-75% of the area results in a burned or black condition to reduce quantities of "fine fuels" such as tree needlecast and ground surface vegetation.

Chipping - equipment used to reduce piles or concentrations of treated vegetation into wood chips to reduce quantities of fuels as an alternative to burning.