

Legal Notice
Notice of 30 Day Comment Period
Big Valley Ranger District
USDA – Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Modoc National Forest

Ash Vegetation Treatment Proposed in the Vicinity of Ambrose Valley

The Modoc National Forest is proposing the Ash Vegetation Treatment located approximately 6 miles east of Adin, CA, in T. 38 – 39 N., R. 10 E., in the vicinity of Ambrose Valley. The project is within the Big Valley Federal Sustained Yield Unit and is being managed based on the 1991 Modoc National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The objectives are to reduce fuels, enhance forest health, restore and maintain the sage steppe ecosystem in Ambrose Valley, and increase growth on the remaining trees through thinning and under-burning. The treatments being proposed are:

- Approximately 5,100 acres of thinning which includes the removal of small saw logs and chips for biomass. Some trees as large as 30 inches in diameter may be cut.
- Approximately 70 acres of regeneration harvest within white fir stands, using clearcutting, seed tree and/or shelterwood methods. The harvest areas will be tractor piled to reduce slash prior to planting pine seedlings.
- Juniper trees will be cut from approximately 1,000 acres in Ambrose Valley (T. 39 N., R. 10 E., sections 28, 29 and 33, T. 38 N., R. 10 E., sections 3 and 4) to return the dry flat to a grass, bitterbrush and sage community.
- A roads analysis will be completed as part of the project, and some roads may be closed.

The Ash Vegetation Treatment proposal utilizes a combination of mechanical and hand treatments, as well as prescribed burning, to thin and remove surface and ladder fuels in the treatment units. The proposed treatments may include tree removal with ground based logging systems, machine mastication, slash piling, pruning, hand felling and piling, pile burning, and under-burning.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Modoc County Record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

At this time, a decision has not been made regarding this planning effort. Please provide comments by March 17, 2006.

The office hours of the Adin Office, for those submitting hand-delivered comments, are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided during normal office hours by calling (530) 229-3215, or in person at the Big Valley District Office, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. You may also FAX comments to Barbara Zylstra at (530) 299-8409 or e-mail comments to bzylstra@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to comments-pacificsouthwest-modoc-bigvalley@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must provide the following information:

1. Name and Address;
2. Title of the proposed action;
3. Specific substantive comments (36 CFR 215.2) on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision;
4. Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comment(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility;
5. For multiple names or multiple organizations, a signature must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each organization, or for each individual that wishes to have appeal eligibility, and
6. Individual members of organizations must submit their own substantive comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility as an individual; comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

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