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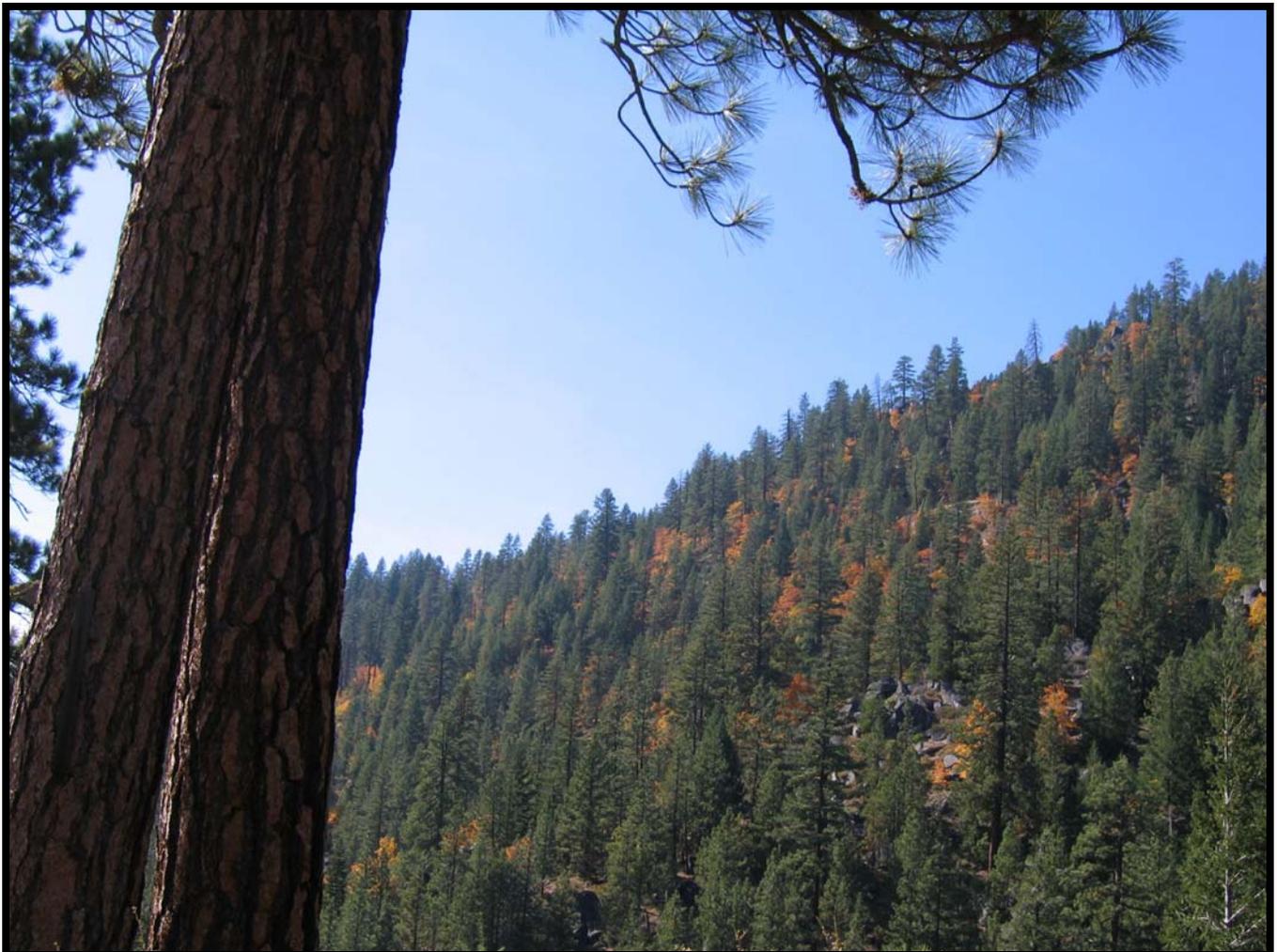
July 2006



# Draft Environmental Impact Statement

## Diamond Vegetation Management Project

Mt. Hough Ranger District, Plumas National Forest  
Plumas County, California



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# DIAMOND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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**Abstract:** The *Diamond Vegetation Management Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) documents the analysis of the no-action alternative and four action alternatives.

*Alternative A* (no action) represents current conditions and proposes no management actions.

*Alternative B* (proposed action) proposes to implement fuel treatments by constructing shaded fuel breaks known as Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZs); harvest trees using group selection and area thinning; perform associated road system improvement work, such as reconstruction, decommissioning, and construction; carry out a range of watershed, aquatic, and riparian habitat improvements; and control the spread and introduction of noxious weeds, specifically direct application of herbicides on about 128 acres of Canada thistle.

*Alternative C* is identical to alternative B, except herbicides would not be used to control Canada thistle; rather, a combination of nonchemical treatment methods would be used.

*Alternative D* (preferred alternative) is similar to alternative B, but it reduces the number of group selection acres due to road treatment costs. Alternative D also proposes dropping about 400 acres of treatments in DFPZ units and proposes site-specific mitigation measures in subwatersheds over the Threshold of Concern.

*Alternative F* reduces the number of DFPZ treatment acres and group selection acres because of watershed and wildlife habitat concerns.

Reviewers should submit their comments to the Forest Service during the 45-day review period—this will enable the Forest Service to analyze and respond to comments at one time and use information in the comments to prepare the final EIS, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision-making process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their participation in the *National Environmental Policy Act* process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers' position and contentions (Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978)). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final EIS (City of Angoon v. Hodel (9th Circuit, 1986)) and Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980)). Comments on the draft EIS should be specific and address the adequacy of the analysis and merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

Send Comments to: James M. Peña, Plumas National Forest Supervisor, at P.O. Box 11500, 157 Lawrence St., Quincy, CA 95971 (telephone: 530-283-7810). Comments may be (1) mailed; (2) hand delivered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays; (3) faxed to 530-283-7746; or (4) electronically mailed to: **comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas@fs.fed.us**. Please indicate the name "Diamond Project" on the subject line of your email. Comments submitted electronically must be in "Rich Text Format" (.rtf).

**Date Comments Must Be Received:** The 45-day comment period starts the day after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes the draft EIS Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.