



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Shasta-Trinity  
National  
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## Down River Salvage Project: Scoping Letter

Dear Interested Party,

The Trinity River Management Unit of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest is proposing to salvage harvest about 155 acres of dead and dying trees. The project area is near the communities of Junction City and Big Bar, California, within the Big Bar Ranger District on National Forest Lands. Forest Service personnel are preparing to conduct National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of the proposed project within the Soldier and Burnt Ranch watersheds. The legal location is: Township 33 North, Range 11 West, section 10 of Mt. Diablo Meridian (MDM); and Township 4 North, Range 8 East, sections 9 and 21 of Humboldt Meridian (HBM). Please see the enclosed map for a general location of the proposed project area.

### Your Involvement

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to participate in the NEPA analysis by providing your comments about this proposal during what is referred to as the public scoping process. If you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, or feel you have issues (points of dispute, debate, or disagreement) regarding potential effects of this proposed action, please send those issues in writing to the project leader (Sam Frink, c/o Weaverville Ranger District Office, P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093) on or before April 24, 2009. We will use any significant issues that are identified to develop alternatives to the Proposed Action.

### Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to salvage harvest dead and dying trees resulting from the wildfires of 2008 within and adjacent to the Wildland Urban Interface affecting the communities of Junction City and Big Bar. A total of 4 units (including 155 acres) that experienced “stand-replacing” fire effects have been identified to be salvage harvested under the authority of the Limited Timber Harvest Categorical Exclusion (Category #13) which allows for up to 250 acres of removal of dead and dying trees. The proposal would harvest timber using tractor, cable, and helicopter yarding systems, involve no road construction, and include incidental removal of trees for landings, skid trails, and road clearing. Subsequent to the timber harvest, the units would be site-prepared for replanting indigenous tree species. The anticipated sequence of implementation would be to harvest before winter of 2009, site-prepare the harvested units for tree planting in 2010, and replant with tree seedlings in 2011.



### **Purpose and Need for Action**

The proposed project is within Management Area 15 (Trinity River) of Shasta-Trinity National Forest System lands. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of high intensity wildfire to Down River communities by reducing hazardous fuel accumulations. The action is needed at this time to recover the value of wood products remaining from the fire-killed timber. The wood products are valuable to the timber industry and for use by the public at large. Receipts from the timber sold would assist in financing the reforestation costs if the harvesting is completed before the timber deteriorates from decay and insect damage. The land allocations within this area include Commercial Wood Products (near Junction City) and Late-Successional Reserves (near Big Bar).

### **Decision to be Made**

The decision to be made is whether to implement the project as proposed, to modify the project under an alternative that addresses significant issues and meets the purpose and need statement, or take no action at this time.

*/s/ Lance Koch dated 3/26/2009*

LANCE KOCH  
Trinity River Management Unit District Ranger