

# Forest Service News



Umpqua National Forest

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August 13, 2003

## Summer 2003 on the Umpqua National Forest

### Rogue/Umpqua RAC Recommends Projects



*RAC Member Bill Town during field trip to Apple Fire in May 2003*

In July, the Rogue/Umpqua Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) met to review 95 proposals for possible funding through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. At the end of the two-day meeting, they recommended funding 56 projects in five counties totaling \$2.9 million. Of the recommended projects, 32 are in Douglas County, 10 in Jackson County, six in Lane County, five in Klamath County and three in Josephine County. The projects include maintaining trails, brushing roadsides, controlling noxious weeds, thinning dense forest stands, and enhancing campgrounds. These projects are still pending approval by Forest Supervisor Jim Caplan, and concurrence from county commissioners. For more information about the committee, contact Cheryl Walters at 541/957-3270 or [crwalters@fs.fed.us](mailto:crwalters@fs.fed.us).

### Planning continues for Baked Apple Fire Salvage



We anticipate advertising timber sales from the Baked Apple Fire Salvage next summer. The sale may yield up to 55 million board feet of timber in the Panther Creek watershed burned by the 2002 Apple Fire. The proposed sale will also treat slash, reforest areas burned by the fire, and improve roads. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) should be printed in October. The planning team will hold a public meeting in October, shortly after the DEIS is printed. The DEIS will be available on the Forest's website, on CD-ROM, or as a written document. If you would like a copy of the DEIS when it is available, contact Debbie Anderson, Baked Apple team leader, at 541/496-3532 or by email at [danderson01@fs.fed.us](mailto:danderson01@fs.fed.us).



## Apple Seed Timber Sale Sold

The Apple Seed salvage sale within the 2002 Apple Fire on the North Umpqua Ranger District was sold to Butte Timberlands, LLC, based in Pleasant Hill. The purpose of the 570 thousand board foot sale is to reduce fuels within burned second growth stands to lessen future hazards in developing stands. Dead merchantable trees on 45 acres of plantations and natural second-growth stands will be salvaged with the timber sale. Also covered under the same categorical exclusion, is the hand-crew treatment of 67 acres of unmerchantable stands burned in the 2002 fire. Contract crews will treat areas of concentrated fuels in these unmerchantable plantations to reduce the chances of future re-burns and plantation losses. Seedlings will be planted on all 112 acres. For more information, contact Barbara Fontaine at 541/496-3532 or [bfontaine@fs.fed.us](mailto:bfontaine@fs.fed.us).

## Acker Fire Salvage Planning Effort May Change from Original Proposal

The planning team is proposing to use a new agency policy for small timber sales to save the agency significant time and resources in planning the Acker Fire salvage effort. The proposed switch from writing an environmental impact statement, to using a categorical exclusion, is possible for salvaging dead and dying trees on areas up to 250 acres. The acreage in the Acker Fire salvage proposal has dropped from 350 acres to 200 acres because the presence of streams, wetlands, archaeological sites, suitability and low volume per acre totals. A sense of urgency is added because the dead trees are deteriorating in value due to their small diameter and species composition. The planning team is meeting Tuesday, August 19, at 9 a.m. at the Tiller Ranger Station to discuss the possible change in planning categories. For more information, contact Alan Baumann at 541/825-3140 or [abaumann@fs.fed.us](mailto:abaumann@fs.fed.us). For information about the new planning policy, visit [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us).



*Dozens of individual lightning fires created a mosaic of burned patches in July 2002 similar to the one behind Emily Sands, Tiller fire management officer.*



*Forest stand before a commercial thin from below.*



*Stand after thinning and controlled underburn.*



## Lemolo Watershed Projects EIS

The DEIS for the Lemolo Watershed projects is expected in early September, which will begin the 45-day comment period. The next public meeting is scheduled for early September. The DEIS covers 76,000 acres of five smaller sub watersheds: Bradley Creek, Lemolo Reservoir, North Umpqua Headwaters, Thirsty Creek, and Lake Creek. The proposed action would harvest 448 acres using shelter wood and seed tree prescriptions, commercially thin 892 acres, partial-harvest 39 acres through individual tree selection, harvest 146 acres through small group selection, selectively harvest 42 acres for posts and poles, and harvest 10 acres for house logs for a total of 27 million board feet. Roadwork includes 3.17 miles of new roads, 51.79 miles of road reconstruction and maintenance, 11 miles of road decommissioning, and 3.9 miles of temporary roads. The proposed action would also treat hazardous fuels on 282 acres through under burning and pile burning, and promote pine health on 1,703 acres by giving individual pines more growing space. More information: contact Pat Williams at 541/767-5000 or [pswilliams@fs.fed.us](mailto:pswilliams@fs.fed.us).

## Ash Creek Fire Salvage Underway

The DEIS for a 4,130-acre planning area burned in the Boulder Fire on the Tiller Ranger District in 2002, is expected in September. The planning team is currently reworking the document after an internal review. The proposed action would harvest 251 acres of dead and dying trees in matrix, a land allocation dedicated to commercial harvest of timber. Reforestation will plant 200-250 trees per acre on those matrix acres where trees were killed by the fire. In addition, planting will occur on about 8,000 acres total over the next 5-year period on reforested plantations that were destroyed in the Tiller Complex of fires in 2002. For more information, contact Alan Baumann at 541/825-3140 or [abaumann@fs.fed.us](mailto:abaumann@fs.fed.us).

## Late Successional Reserve Project



The Forest Service team working on post-fire recovery efforts in the late successional reserve (LSR) that burned in 2002 is continuing to assess inventory needs and project opportunities. Due to the inability to fund work across the entire affected area, the team must narrow the project scope, and prioritize potential project activities such as fuel breaks, potential salvage, and thinning of mid-seral stands. Late successional reserves are managed to protect and enhance late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems. Last summer approximately 65,500 acres of the Umpqua National Forest's LSR lands burned, with about 10,000 acres (4.6 percent of the LSR) burning with stand-replacing severity. The public is invited to a field forum, tentatively planned for Tuesday, September 23rd, to look at potential projects and associated objectives in the forest. For more information, contact Yewah Lau at 541/957-3466 or [ylau@fs.fed.us](mailto:ylau@fs.fed.us).

## Diamond Lake Restoration Project



*Tui chub*

Alternatives such as draining Diamond Lake, mechanically harvesting the tui chub, treating the lake with antimycin (a fish toxicant) and utilizing different fish stocking strategies were discussed during a July meeting of the interdisciplinary team assigned to develop viable alternatives to restore the water quality and recreational fishery in Diamond Lake. The team, assisted by several lake experts, also considered and eliminated numerous alternatives from further study such as harvesting macrophytes, inducing dissolved oxygen depletion, and utilizing algicides. The team will continue refining alternatives before sharing them with the public at meetings in Roseburg and Medford the week of September 8th (logistics to be announced). For more information, call Sherri Chambers at 541/496-3532 or email her at [schambers@fs.fed.us](mailto:schambers@fs.fed.us). Visit our website at [http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/umpqua/rec/w\\_quality/w-quality-index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/umpqua/rec/w_quality/w-quality-index.shtml) for additional information about this project.



*Lemolo Lake, Diamond Lake  
Ranger District*

## North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued the final environmental impact statement for the North Umpqua Hydroelectric project. We anticipate that FERC will issue the license in 2004. Meanwhile, nine management plans are being developed or finalized as directed by the Settlement Agreement of June 2001. Other on-the-ground activities include constructing new wildlife bridges across canals and expanding existing ones, planning Chinook salmon spawning habitat, placing new picnic tables in recreation sites around Toketee and Lemolo lakes, and toilets at Poole Creek group campground. PacifiCorp crews are fixing problem areas along several roads and canals prone to erosion. We're also surveying for certain turtles and noxious weeds in the project area, as well as designing a new raft launch at Boulder Flat Campground. For more information, contact Pam Sichtung at 541/957-3342 or [psichtung@fs.fed.us](mailto:psichtung@fs.fed.us).

## Kelsay Fire Contained



Fire fighters successfully contained the Kelsay Fire in seven days. The fire was one of three started by lightning on the Diamond Lake Ranger District on July 27. After quickly determining it would become a project fire, we immediately ordered an area incident command team to manage the fire. We used helicopters, hand crews, fire engines, dozers, and air-dropped fire retardant while fighting the fire. The fire was contained August 2 at 1,204 acres, at a cost of \$4.2 million. It will likely continue smoldering within containment lines until this fall when heavy rains extinguish the fire. For more information, contact Joe Linn at 541/957-3204 or [jlinn@fs.fed.us](mailto:jlinn@fs.fed.us).