

# USDA Forest Service Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Pilot Project Implementation

*March 2011*



- ✓ The Lassen and Plumas National Forests and the Sierraville Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest are implementing the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group (HFQLG) Forest Recovery Act across approximately 1.53 million acres in the northern Sierra.
- ✓ In 1993, the Quincy Library Group, a grassroots citizen group interested in collaborative management of national forest lands, developed the “Community Stability Proposal,” eventually lobbying for passage of the Forest Recovery Act in October 1998 directing the implementation of a Pilot Project in the northern Sierra.
- ✓ The primary purpose of the Pilot Project is to implement and demonstrate the effectiveness of resource management activities proposed by the Quincy Library Group to promote local economic stability; create healthy, fire-resilient forests that maintain ecological integrity; and construct a strategic network of fuelbreaks (Defensible Fuel Profile Zones or DFPZs) that provides for safe and effective fire suppression.
- ✓ Numerous documents and forest plan amendments were developed to facilitate implementing the Act across the Pilot Project. A combination of litigation and document limitations has delayed full implementation. The Act was extended in 2003 and again in December 2007. It is scheduled to conclude in September 2012.
- ✓ About 60 percent of the DFPZ network is in place.
- ✓ More than 700 forest employees serve the three forests in the Pilot Project area, working for the overall health and sustainability of the forests in the northern Sierra. This includes providing assistance, technical programs and support to individuals, state agencies and other partners to continue improving forest health.
- ✓ The Pacific Southwest Research Station is studying the effects of HFQLG treatments on wildlife populations, watershed health and the reduction of wildland fires as part of an Administrative Study. The project is committed to sharing the results of this innovative research.
- ✓ The HFQLG Pilot Project forests are committed to supporting local communities, not only through project implementation, but also through volunteering for community projects and encouraging employees to personally make a difference in their community.



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*Photos, from left: California spotted owl; Aspen restoration project on Eagle Lake Ranger District, Lassen National Forest; Firefighter on a prescribed burn on Mt. Hough Ranger District, Plumas National Forest; Logging truck on U.S. Highway 70 near Quincy.*

# Interesting HFQLG Pilot Project Facts:

A DFPZ is a ¼ to ½ mile wide fuel break utilizing thinning and other vegetation management methods. Over 204, 800 acres of DFPZs are complete.

The Quincy Library Group (QLG), established in 1992, is a pioneering grassroots citizen organization committed to enforcing responsible management of the National Forests.



Members of the Quincy Library Group before a meeting.

Water is a critical resource in the West. As part of this, riparian restoration is restoring stream channels, improving watershed health and helping retain water for release downstream later in the summer. More than 10,000 acres of riparian restoration are completed.



Signal DFPZ on the Eagle Lake Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest.

Individual Tree Selection (ITS) is a method used to thin the canopy. Typically smaller diameter trees and thick areas of brush are removed to help open the forest floor. Desirable trees with potential are selected to remain and given room to grow into strong, fire-resilient trees. Across the Pilot Project more than 9,000 acres have been treated using ITS.



Knuthson Meadow Riparian Restoration project on the Sierraville Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest.

A Group Selection is an area between ½ and 2 acres that is cleared of trees up to a maximum diameter. These areas create an opening for increasing ecological diversity and improve community stability. More than 7,235 acres of Group Selection are in place.



Meadow Valley Group Selection Unit on the Mt. Hough Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest.

## Budget Information

**Fiscal Year 2010:** \$26.2 million  
**Fiscal Year 2009:** \$26.2 million  
**Fiscal Year 2008:** \$25.3 million



Unit 43 after treatment on the Hat Creek Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest.

## HFQLG Pilot Project Fast Facts:

**Ranger Districts Involved:** Lassen – Almanor, Eagle Lake & Hat Creek; Plumas – Beckwourth, Feather River & Mt. Hough; Tahoe - Sierraville

**Total Acres Accomplished:** 231,770 acres

**Total Sawlog Volume:** 865,556 CCF

**Total Biomass Volume:** 853,575 CCF

\*Note: Data is through September 30, 2010.

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