

REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 2016

TO: Dan R. Dill, District Ranger, Mad River Ranger District, Six Rivers National Forest

FROM: Jessica Rubado, Forest Service REO Representative to the RIEC

SUBJECT: Regional Ecosystem Office Review of the Dobbyn Creek Sudden Oak Death Treatment, Mad River Ranger District, Six Rivers National Forest

Summary: The Regional Ecosystem Office (REO) interagency Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) Work Group issued a letter of concurrence on July 6, 2015 regarding proposed sudden oak death (SOD) treatments in the Eel River Late Successional Reserve (LSR 307), Mad River Ranger District, Six Rivers National Forest. The REO, based upon review by the LSR Work Group, concurred with the Forest in its finding of consistency with the Standards and Guidelines (S&G) under the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) for the Dobbyn Creek Sudden Oak Death Treatment Project. Since the letter was issued, the SOD has spread and the project has been updated to include an additional 12 acres of treatment.

Basis for the Review: Silviculture, risk reduction, and salvage treatments in LSRs are subject to REO review under the NWFP S&Gs (C-12-15). As required by the NWFP S&Gs (C-11), the Forest prepared a Late-Successional Reserve Assessment (LSRA), which was reviewed and found to be consistent under the NWFP S&Gs (C-11). The SOD treatment came before the LSR Workgroup for review because treatment of SOD was not covered in the LSRA.

Background and Project Description: Refer to the July 6, 2015 for background and description of the original project.

The reasons for expanding the treatment within the core area from 30 acres to 42 acres was due to new SOD survey information from UC Extensions last year that we received after the consultation with the Regional Ecosystem Office. Survey results indicated new SOD positive trees outside the previous inner core extent, west of the known SOD positive sites. The Ranger was advised on the changed conditions, and he decided that this area should to be included within the inner core to adequately reduce the chances of the spread of the disease.

The updated proposed action includes:

- Constructing approximately 1000 feet of trail to the SOD site.
- Falling all tanoak and California bay greater than 1" diameter-breast-height on about 42 acres and applying herbicides into cambium layer of the cut stumps.
- Cutting, piling, and burning or lop and scatter, depending on slope steepness, resulting tanoak slash on about 42 acres. Slopes greater than 35% would be lop and scatter, and slopes < 35% would be piled and burned.
- Injecting herbicides into bay and tanoak utilizing a "hack-n-squirt" method on approximately 171 acres buffer adjacent to core treatment area.

Review of the Project: The LSR Work Group reviewed the updated proposed action provided by the Mad River Ranger District.

The interagency LSR Work Group review concluded that the proposed treatment is still consistent with Standard and Guidelines for Risk Reduction Projects in LSRs (C-12-13). Treatments in older stands are appropriate in this situation for the following reasons (NWFP S&Gs C-13):

- The result of the management activities will clearly result in greater assurance of long-term maintenance of habitat.
- The activities are clearly needed to reduce risks.
- The activities will not prevent the LSR from playing an effective role in the objectives for which they were established.

Conclusion: Based on the interagency REO LSR Work Group's review of relevant documentation, the REO concurs with the Forest's conclusion that the Dobbyn Creek SOD Treatment Project as updated is consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan.

If you have questions regarding this review, please contact Kim Mellen-McLean at 503-808-2677.



JESSICA RUBADO
Regional Ecosystem Office,
Forest Service Representative

cc: Jeff Jones, Six Rivers NF
Robyn Darbyshire, USFS, Pacific NW Regional Office
George McFadden, BLM Representative to the REO
Kim Mellen-McLean, LSR Workgroup, FS

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