



File Code: 1950

Date: July 17, 2019

Dear Interested Citizen:

I'm writing to let you know that Laurence Crabtree, the Responsible Official, has prepared a draft Decision Notice selecting the Proposed Action, with modifications, of the Twofer Fuels Reduction Project Environmental Assessment.

Under the modified Proposed Action, approximately 8,561 acres of National Forest System land will be treated using a variety of methods to improve fire resiliency and forest health. Specific treatments include the creation of fuel breaks, mechanical and hand thinning, understory fuel removal treatments such as mastication and piling fuels, prescribed burning of piled material and prescribed understory burning, and herbicide treatment of previously treated plantation stands to reduce fuel loading. The modified Proposed Action also includes hazard tree removal, road maintenance and reconstruction within the project area to facilitate these treatments and to improve water quality, and targeted grazing operations using goats or sheep to control infestations of invasive plant species. Minor modifications were made to the Proposed Action following the comment period. These modifications are 1) the establishment of a 20-inch upper diameter limit for mechanical treatments within protected activity centers (approximately 42 acres); and, 2) changes to treatments within the Windmiller Native Plant Collection area, which are the addition of approximately 60 acres of prescribed burning and approximately 2 acres of shovel logging combined with the elimination of 14 acres of follow up herbicide treatment.

The Twofer project is located on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, in a wildland-urban interface on both the north and south side of the heavily traveled U.S. Highway 50 in El Dorado County, CA (T12N R14E, T11N R13E, R14E, and R15E, and small portions of T10N R14E and R15E; Mount Diablo Base & Meridian).

Copies of the final Environmental Assessment, which includes a Finding of No Significant Impact, the draft Decision Notice, and supporting documentation are available for review on the Eldorado National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50370> or <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/eldorado/landmanagement/projects>. To obtain a printed copy of these documents, please contact Nancy Nordensten, NEPA Planner, nancy.nordensten@usda.gov or 530-647-5485.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

This proposed decision is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Objections will only be accepted from those who submitted project-specific written comments during scoping or other designated comment period. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted comments unless based on new information arising after the designated comment period(s).



Objections must be submitted within 45 days following the publication of the legal notice in the Mountain Democrat. The date of the legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure evidence of timely receipt (36 CFR 218.9).

Objections must be submitted to the reviewing officer: Randy Moore, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service; Attn: Twofers Fuels Reduction Project; 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592, (707) 562-8737. Objections may be submitted via mail, FAX (707-562-9229), or delivered during business hours (M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm). Electronic objections, in common formats (such as .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt), may be submitted to: objections-pacificsouthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us with the subject: Twofers Project.

Objections must include (36 CFR 218.8(d)): 1) name, address and telephone; 2) identification of a single lead objector, if applicable; 3) signature or other verification of authorship; 4) project name, Responsible Official name and title, and name of affected National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s); 5) reasons for, and suggested remedies to resolve your objections; and, 6) description of the connection between your objections and your prior comments. Documents may be incorporated by reference only, as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b).

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

If no objection is filed on this project a Decision Notice may be issued on, but not before, the fifth business day following the close of the objection filing period (36 CFR 218.12(d)). If an objection to this decision is filed in accordance with 36 CFR 218.26, then this Decision Notice may not be signed until all concerns and instructions from the reviewing official in the objection response have been addressed (36 CFR 218.12 (b)).

Applicable project activities will be enrolled under the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region Waste Discharge Requirements General Order (Order No. R5-2017-0061) prior to implementation. Project implementation is expected to begin in early spring 2020.

CONTACT

For additional information about the project, contact: Nancy Nordensten, NEPA Planner, nancy.nordensten@usda.gov or 530-647-5485.

Sincerely,



SCOT ROGERS
District Ranger