

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/14/2015 2:59:39 PM

First name: Dick

Last name: Artley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Re: Not a timber sale --- RE: Project contact for Grass Valley Fire Restoration Project, San Bernardino National Forest, Mountaintop Ranger District

April 14, 2015

Hi Beth. I have supplied you with an attachment below. It contains the wisdom of 183 Ph.D. scientists discussing the folly of logging a post fire landscape. I guess since you propose post-fire logging you will conclude these scientists are wrong.

Please tell me which ones are wrong and why. Then tell me why your qualifications to make such a conclusion transcend the qualifications of these 183 independent, unbiased scientists.

Your Purpose & Need says you need to "restore damaged lands" yet these scientists describe how a fire is Nature's way of restoring herself. Last, I'll remind you that USFS leaders in the WO tell the public their projects are based on "best science." Please explain how ignoring the recommendations of 183 experts with no financial incentive to accumulate volume constitutes "best science."

Enjoy your day. I look forward to your response.

Dick Artley (retired forest planner from the Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho, duties were 1) NEPA legal compliance reviewer, 2) forest NEPA coordinator, and 3) forest appeals/litigation coordinator. Education: BS in forestry from the University of Washington and MS in logging engineering from Oregon State University)

415 NE 2nd Street

Grangeville, Idaho 83530

208-983-0181

<mailto:da99333@gmail.com> da99333@gmail.com

restore damaged lands

On Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 12:58 PM, Stewart, Beth A -FS <bethstewart@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Dear Mr. Artley,

I wanted to address the comment you make below: "This robs the public of their opportunity to become involved in the Grass Valley timber sale." This is the Grass Valley Fire Restoration Project, and will use a variety of methods to treat fuels and vegetation but is not being developed or pursued as a timber sale. I am sending you this clarifying email so you don't erroneously assume this when submitting any comments or input you may have. We value your input in helping us develop this project, and so want you to fully understand our current proposal.

The Grass Valley Fire Restoration Project is not intended to be pursued as a timber sale. It is a fire restoration project, that is being pursued to restore lands that have been damaged from the Grass Valley fire. It is also being pursued to reduce fuel loading around communities. I have attached some documents that show some of the underlying reason for this project, the Grass Valley Fire of 2007. This fire is what caused the project to be initiated. This is not a project that is intended to produce commercial timber. If viable markets exist, trees may be sold, but the closest log mill is in Terra Bella, CA, which is about 225 miles from the project area. There are also only small trees in the project area, and so commercial timber is likely totally unviable from an economic standpoint. We want to use the different methods that are described in the Scoping letter as a means to most adequately reduce fuels and cause the least resource damage, we have no underlying goals other than what have been stated in our documents.

Thanks, and I do apologize for so many emails ! I was really concerned that my email address was incorrect, but I do think it works, so hopefully my emails were not too much of a burden.

Sincerely,
Beth

From: Dick Artley [mailto:da99333@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 11:29 AM
To: Stewart, Beth A -FS
Subject: Re: Project contact for Grass Valley Fire Restoration Project, San Bernardino National Forest, Mountaintop Ranger District

Thanks Beth.

I'd like to point out that your March 31 scoping letter gives the public the incorrect email address to submit their scoping comments:

comments_pacificsouthwest_san_bernardino_mountaintop@fs.fed.us

I should not need to emphasize that this oversight is not trivial. This robs the public of their opportunity to

become involved in the Grass Valley timber sale. Congress promulgated several laws to keep this from happening.

I will expect the online scoping letter to be corrected today. Thanks. Please let me know when its corrected. It should be comments-pacificsouthwest-san-Bernardino-mountaintop@fs.fed.us

Dick Artley (retired forest planner from the Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho, duties were 1) NEPA legal compliance reviewer, 2) forest NEPA coordinator, and 3) forest appeals/litigation coordinator)

Grangeville, Idaho 83530

da99333@gmail.com

On Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 7:04 AM, Stewart, Beth A -FS <bethstewart@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Dear Mr. Artley,

I am writing to let you know that I am the project contact for the Grass Valley Project. I am certain that you noted this during your review of the Scoping information.

I am just contacting you so you will have my email, in case I can assist you with anything. My understanding is that we have the correct email address on file for you, and that you did receive our public scoping information.

Can you please reply to this email to confirm that you have our Scoping information, and also let us know if you need anything additional at this time?

Sincerely,
Beth

Beth Stewart, Forester
Project leader

Forest Service

Washington Office Enterprise Program, VMS Enterprise Unit

p: 530-283-7768
c: 530-601-1519
f: 530-283-7854
bethstewart@fs.fed.us

159 Lawrence Street
Quincy, CA 95971
www.fs.fed.us <<http://www.fs.fed.us/>>
<<http://usda.gov/>> <[https://twitter.com/forestservice](https://twitter.com/forestsservice)> <<http://facebook.com/USDA>>

Caring for the land and serving people