

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/28/2015 3:07:54 AM
First name: Dennis
Last name: Meisenbach
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Re: Grass Valley Fire Restoration Project

Beth,
Thanks for the info.

Here are some of our thoughts.

Our main concern is to establish, reforest and maintain, a size-able fuel reduction corridor within Federal Lands as it adjoins private property, where practical.

This should be Priority One.

Another important item is the removal of dead and cut vegetation and hazard trees rather than just drop and leave in place.

An example of poor fuels management was the Hazard Tree Removal project on 2N33 almost a decade ago.

The trees were just dropped and left on site greatly increasing the fuel load on the forest floor immediately adjacent to the road.

A prime example is on 2N33 from the junction of 3W14 to Grass Valley Creek.

Only a half mile in length, but so many large trees were just dropped and left laying below the FS Road, that it greatly enhances the out of control fire potential in the area.

Also, we have a major concern about any new access roads that will be cut in the proposed area for this project, and there is an immediate need to increase the fuel reduction area around the Deer Lodge Park SCE Substation including adjacent power lines.

Finally, the Grass Valley Creek drainage and adjacent steep hillsides within the fire area, seem to be recovering adequately and would be better off

without any "treatments" other than some specific and limited, dead tree removal by helicopter.

The concern is of creating long lasting erosion problems in the canyon from the other listed treatments.

Sincerely,

Dennis Meisenbach

On Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 6:40 AM, FS-comments-pacificsouthwest-san-bernardino-mountaintop <comments_pacificsouthwest_san_bernardino_mountaintop@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Hi Dennis,

At this time, we have not specifically indicated what we will be doing in each of the treatment levels. Rather, they are being delineated geographically due to an underlying resource concern, such as sensitive wildlife, WUI, Ingress/Egress, Public Safety, etc.

The treatment levels are in development at this time. The types of treatments that could be pursued are noted in the Scoping Letter and include the following:

- a. Mastication with chipped materials remaining on site
- b. Mechanical thinning with ground based yarding
- c. Chainsaw thinning with skyline or helicopter yarding
- d. Chainsaw thinning with manual piling on site or removal
- e. Burning of vegetation piles
- f. Underburning

We will use methods that are appropriate to achieve the desired condition, which is defined by the Forest Plan, and included in the attached "GrassValleyFireRestoration_PublicScopingDocument.pdf"

If you have specific questions about different areas, please be in touch and I can address those. We anticipate fulfilling the direction in the Forest Plan, and so would like your input to help us better develop our proposals. Right now, the treatment levels exist as there is an underlying concern that made us develop them as spatially distinct polygons. For example, a "NO TREATMENT" area generally is related to sensitive wildlife. A treatment level 1 is a place that has a high priority for fuels reduction and public safety.

I hope this helps to clarify. We have not fully developed the treatment levels, but know that we want to pursue different options. We hope the Public Scoping phase will help us further refine what we are doing where and so value you engaging our process if you have input that you would like us to consider.

Sincerely, Beth

Beth Stewart, Forester
Project leader

Forest Service

Washington Office Enterprise Program, VMS Enterprise Unit

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Dennis M [mailto:meisen21@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 9:37 PM
To: FS-comments-pacificsouthwest-san-bernardino-mountaintop
Subject: Re: Grass Valley Fire Restoration Project

Thanks much Beth, that does help.

I would like to know the explanation of the treatment levels listed in the legend on the map.

Thanks again,

Dennis Meisenbach

On Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 12:42 PM, FS-comments-pacificsouthwest-san-bernardino-mountaintop <comments_pacificsouthwest_san_bernardino_mountaintop@fs.fed.us> wrote:

http://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43428

Hi Dennis,

The web link is above, and is also included in the Scoping Letter. I don't know if the website wasn't working when you tried ? Please let me know if the link doesn't work for you.

I have also attached the documents in this email.

Sincerely,

Beth

Beth Stewart, Forester
Project leader

Forest Service

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Dennis M [<mailto:meisen21@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 7:30 PM
To: FS-comments-pacificsouthwest-san-bernardino-mountaintop
Subject: Grass Valley Fire Restoration Project

Where can I find detailed info on this project?

Can you send me a web link?

The nepa project page listed in the letter has no details.

Thanks,

Dennis Meisenbach