

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

April 17, 2014

David Meyers, Forest Supervisor  
Attn: Emelia Barnum  
Shasta-McCloud Management Unit  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
204 West Alma Street  
Mount Shasta, CA 96067

Subject: Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Harris Vegetation Management Project, Siskiyou County, California. (CEQ# 20140054)

Dear Mr. Meyers:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Harris Vegetation Management Project, Siskiyou County, California. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The RDEIS updates the information from the FEIS released in November 2013. The proposed project would manage vegetation treatments on approximately 2,800 acres of National Forest System Lands within the Harris Vegetation Management Project area. We understand that the revision was developed in part because the Forest Service has a new preferred alternative; Alternative 4b. We also understand Alternative 4b was developed as a result of changes made to the project such as boundary adjustments to avoid sensitive sites, based on discussions with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

EPA provided comments on the 2012 DEIS in our letter dated March 26, 2012, and stated our support for promoting biodiversity, restoring natural ecological processes, the inclusion of the resource protection measures, and best management practices. We suggested that Alternative 2 was the environmentally preferable alternative, because it provided habitat connectivity for the Northern Spotted Owl. We support the new preferred Alternative 4b, which is a hybrid of Alternative 2 and recommendations from the USFWS.

Based on our review of the RDEIS's preferred Alternative 4b we have rated the project as Lack of Objections (LO) (see enclosed "*Summary of Rating Definitions*"). EPA commends the Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team's decision to modify treatments and prescription elements to avoid impacts to species of concern and their habitat. We also support the decision to allow the use of existing roads and trails as fire control lines rather than constructing new fire lines.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this RDEIS. When the RFEIS is released, please send one hard copy and to the address above (mail code: ENF-4-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or have your staff contact James Munson, the lead reviewer for this project. James can be reached at (415) 972-3852 or [Munson.James@epa.gov](mailto:Munson.James@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager  
Environmental Review Section  
Enforcement Division

Enclosure:

Summary of the EPA Rating System