



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Clackamas River
Ranger District,
Mt. Hood
National Forest

595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, OR 97023
503- 630-6861
FAX # 503-630-2299

File Code: 1920

Date: November 1, 2010

Dear Interested Party:

The Clackamas River Ranger District is conducting an analysis of plantation thinning opportunities. The No Gin project is located in the North Fork Clackamas and Lower Clackamas River watersheds in T.4S., R.5E.; T.4S., R.6E.; Willamette Meridian.

The project is in the La Dee Flat area which has a history of logging and wildfire. The area was privately owned and logging began in 1923 using a railroad and steam donkey system. On September 11, 1929 a fire started from overheated railroad brakes and rapidly burned approximately 15,000 acres pushed by an east wind. Much of the burned area was salvage logged and there were other smaller fires that reburned portions of the area. The land was transferred to the Forest Service as part of a settlement for fire damages. The area was eventually replanted and the trees are now approximately 70 years old. The project is adjacent to a recent project called No Whisky and is within a designated Off-Highway Vehicle area (http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/projects/nepa_project.shtml?project=15824)

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this initiative is to thin plantations to achieve multiple objectives:

Diversity - This action is needed because these plantations lack certain elements of diversity. They do not have the mix of tree species that were present in the original stand and they are relatively uniform in terms of tree size and spacing. There is a need for greater variability of vertical and horizontal stand structure. There is a need for more sunlight on the forest floor to create greater diversity of ground vegetation and to increase the quantity and palatability of forage plants. The project would include design features such as variable density thinning, skips and gaps.

Health and Growth - This action is needed because these plantations are experiencing a slowing of growth due to overcrowding and some are experiencing suppression caused mortality. If no action is taken, this overstocked condition would result in stands with reduced vigor and increased mortality. There is a need for forest stands in the matrix that are healthy and vigorous with low levels of mortality.

Forest Products - One of the purposes of this project is to provide forest products consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan goal of maintaining the stability of local and regional economies. This action is needed to supply forest products in a cost effective manner. There is a need to keep forests healthy and productive to sustainably provide forest products in the matrix in the future. Not only are forest products needed by society, but also the employment created is important to local and regional economies.



Proposed Action

The action proposed by the Forest Service is to thin and harvest wood fiber from approximately 65 acres of plantations.

Approximately 1/4 mile of new temporary road would be constructed. After use, temporary roads would be bermed at the entrance, decompacted and roughened with the jaws of an excavator, and debris such as rootwads, slash, logs or boulders would be placed near the entrance and along the first portion of the road.

Further details and Maps are available on the Mt. Hood Forest web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/> in the Projects & Plans section. Questions or comments may be directed to:

Mail: Jim Roden
Estacada Ranger Station
595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, OR 97023

Email: jroden@fs.fed.us

Phone: 503.630.8767

I am requesting your comments concerning this project. If you have any site-specific knowledge or concerns about the proposed actions, please bring them to our attention. The more specific you are, the better we will be able to address issues important to you in our environmental analysis process. Please submit your responses by December 1, 2010.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

/s/ Andrei Rykoff

Andrei Rykoff
District Ranger

Note: Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection.