



FACT SHEET



United States Department of Agriculture
Web: <http://www.usda.gov>

United States Department of Interior
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Making a Difference Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests - Washington

The Two Lakes Fuels Reduction project is located around Lost and Bonaparte Lakes on the Tonasket Ranger District of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest in Washington State. The total project area acreage is about 10,000, and we plan to treat about 4,000 acres using a variety of fuels reduction techniques including commercial timber harvest, ladder fuels reduction, pruning, down wood removal, and prescribed fire.

The project area is highly scenic, and receives the most recreation visits on the Tonasket Ranger District. Twelve summer homes are located on the west side of Bonaparte Lake, with private homes located on the north and west end of the lake, and a resort on State Department of Natural Resources land on the west side of the lake. Forest Service developed campgrounds are located on both Bonaparte and Lost Lakes. Private homes are found on the west and east sides of Lost Lake. In addition, the project area has three organizational camps that serve the youth of the Havilla area and the upper Okanogan Valley.

Most of the project area is in condition class 3 meaning that it is at severe risk to wildland fire. The goal of the treatments is to lessen the chance that a wildland fire would have devastating effects.

The Havilla Community Wildfire Protection Plan was completed this past spring and approved by the Okanogan County Commissioners. It recommends that the Forest Service proceed with fuels reduction within 10 miles of the Havilla community at risk, which precisely where the project area is located.

Thirty-seven people participated in the first collaboration meeting this summer, representing a diversity of interests: Havilla Community Wildfire Protection Plan group members, camp administrators, homeowners, State Department of Natural Resource employees, range permittees, and Forest Service. The area does not have a fire district. The group will meet again in September after the proposed action is close to finalization. This project will be an HFRA project, with the EA completed in January, 2005, with implementation scheduled for spring 2005.

By working with our partners, we have reached agreement on many aspects of the need for the project, the design and implementation of the treatments. The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 is allowing planners the time needed to carefully prepare this project. Without the ability to limit the alternative development as specified under HFRA, and the objection process, it's doubtful this project could be completed in time for the spring burning season. The treatment area is within 1 ½ miles of a community at risk as defined in HFRA, we intend to develop and analyze only one alternative. Because of the serious condition of the fuels in the project area, the sooner the project is implemented, the more potential to reduce the effects and threats a wildfire may pose to the communities.

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For more information on the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and the Healthy Forests Initiative, visit www.healthyforests.gov