



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Surprise Field Office
PO Box 460
Cedarville, CA 96104
www.ca.blm.gov/surprise

In Reply Refer To:
6700, 9200 (P)
CA370

January 29, 2008

Dear Interested Party,

The BLM Surprise Field Office (SFO) is planning hazardous fuels reduction treatments in the Tuledad Allotment (map enclosed). These projects would treat sagebrush woodland and/or forest plant communities which are decadent or declining in vigor as a result of competition or they would develop fuel breaks to protect priority habitat areas.

Treatment areas would be prioritized to address first, those areas where condition class has not declined below a rating of 3. Condition class 3 is defined by U.S. Forest Service General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-87 (2002) as being lands which have been significantly altered from historical ranges, the risk of losing key ecosystem components from fire is high, fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies by multiple return intervals resulting in dramatic changes to: the size, frequency, intensity, or severity or landscape patterns of fire AND vegetation attributes have been significantly altered from their historical ranges)

Project purpose and need would be designed to address one or both of the following fuels objectives.

1. Reduce the buildup of fuels and/or reduce interspecific competition between key species in key watershed areas.
2. Alter the quantity type or arrangement of fuels in areas of strategic importance for fire suppression activities, such as along roads and adjacent to riparian areas.

Treatments could be completed using several tools including hand clearing, mechanical thinning and cutting, prescribed burning, or a combination of these treatments. Work would be completed by either Federal or contract personnel. The byproducts of these treatments would be made available for firewood collection or biomass harvest, piled and burned on site or scattered and left to decompose naturally.

The BLM SFO is currently evaluating site conditions and developing project area and work descriptions. If you would like to be involved in this process or have information you feel would assist with this work, please contact Elias Flores or Leisyka Parrott of my staff before March 1, 2008

at the address above or by phone at (530) 279-6101. If you do not respond to this letter, we will not include you in follow-up correspondence relating to these projects. You will remain on our coordination list for future projects however.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane DeForest". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shane DeForest
Surprise Field Office Manager

Enclosure: Map of Tuledad Allotment