

Current Status of Project Work in the Upper South Fork Clearwater River Revised September 15, 2004

This document is updated monthly and all updates are in bold.

Red River Hazard Tree : Roadside hazard tree removal project on 167 miles of road in the Red River watershed.

Done:

- 20 miles of road treated under 5 of 6 miscellaneous wood products sales, sixth one unbid, opened to public as free firewood gathering area. Logging has been completed in 4 of the sales and **the fifth timber sale's completion date has been extended to September 30, 2004.**
- The Forest portion of the 109 miles of hazard trees along Red River roads was completed in July.
- Idaho County Road Department has felled and left in place hazard trees along the county right-of-way portion, Forest has worked non-County portion of main Red River Road, for total 38 miles.

To Do:

- **Agreement between the Forest and Idaho County is any downed trees along those road sections that the county maintains (within riparian zones) would be left for fish habitat improvement.**

Red Pines Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

In progress:

- It was necessary to combine former "Red River Salvage EA" with Red Pines EIS due to both projects being in the same watershed, running on the same time line, and cumulative impacts.
- Analysis area is entire 104,000-acre watershed focused on hazardous fuels/wildfire reduction for threats to Elk City
- Salvaging value in dead/dying lodgepole pine stands where possible
- Harvest green lodgepole pine where feasible to prevent future mortality
- **The Draft EIS was released to the public on (legal notice date) with a 45-day comment period.**

To be Done:

- Significant consultation and coordination with the Nez Perce Tribe, NOAA Fisheries and US Fish & Wildlife Service still remains.

On-the-ground project work anticipated to begin spring/summer 2005.

Defensible Space Projects:

Newsome:

- NEPA process completed.
- On-the-ground work to be done by 2004.
- Work to be done by *Framing Our Community* in Elk City under community Manpower Training & Dev. Act agreement contract.

Crooked River:

- **Scoping to be initiated in the near future**

Additional Activity in the Elk City Area

American/Crooked River:

- **The target date release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record Of Decision is December, 2004.**
- **Meadow Face litigation has required significant amounts of time on the part of several key American/Crooked project team members (watershed, fisheries, wildlife, and soils). The MF litigation has also affected the availability of our NOAA-Fisheries Level 1 team member on this project. (NOAA-Fisheries was also sued as part of the MF lawsuit).**
- **We are currently addressing the remaining issues in order to sign the ROD in December.**

Whiskey-South:

- **In the appeals filed by Friends of the Clearwater and Idaho Conservation League and the Nez Perce Tribe, the Interior Board of Land Appeals affirmed the BLM's decision.**
- **The Friends of the Clearwater and Idaho Conservation League have filed suit in District court requesting the decision be overturned and a temporary restraining order be issued. Briefings have not been filed at this time so work can continue on the project.**

Markets:

- Investigating the potential electrical cogeneration power using of chips and hogfuel
- Commercial post & pole, firewood & house log vendor & market development
- Employment training partnership with Framing Our Community that will be implemented to develop private section employment opportunities.

Other Projects:

- **Dixie Summit Decision Memo signed on 9/24/04.**
- Proposed under the Limited Timber Harvest CE category

An update of the Nez Perce NF response to six forest health action items is posted on our Forest external website. Clicking on the following link will take you to the document:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/six_action_items.htm