



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Plumas
National Forest

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File Code: 1950-3
Date: July 28, 2006

Dear Interested Party,

The Forest Service, Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Diamond Vegetation Management Project. The proposed action proposes to implement fuel treatments by constructing shaded fuel breaks known as Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZs) on about 5,373 acres and implement group selection harvest on about 1,128 acres. Within area thinning units mechanical and hand thinning is proposed on about 5,779, and prescribed burning is proposed on 2,092 acres. Direct application of herbicides is proposed on about 128 acres of Canada thistle. Road system improvement work that involves reconstruction, decommissioning, and construction is proposed on about 67 miles. Also, a range of watershed, aquatic, and riparian habitat improvements are proposed that includes stream restoration treatments.

As you may know, several lightning-caused fires burned in the vicinity of the Diamond project in late June. However, the effect of the fires is minimal to the overall scope of the Diamond project. The 500-acre Hungry fire and approximately 200 acres of the Boulder fire burned inside the 100,000-acre project area. Preliminary assessments have shown that the number of acres proposed for treatment in any of the alternatives will not change. The entire 2,920-acre Boulder fire will be considered in the cumulative effects of this project once the assessments have been completed. Also, any recovery treatments would also be considered. For your reference, I have attached two maps. Map 1 shows the Boulder complex fires in relation to the project area, and Map 2 shows the fires in relation to the wildlife analysis area used for cumulative effects.

To provide information and answer questions, you are invited to an Open House, hosted by the Mt. Hough Acting District Ranger, Christopher O'Brien, on Wednesday, August 23. The Diamond Project Open House will be held at the Indian Valley Grange Hall, 4294 Main Street, Taylorsville, CA from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

This project is located in Plumas County and a small portion of Lassen County, California. The town of Susanville lies about 7 miles north of the Diamond Project Area, the community of Taylorsville lies about 8 miles to the west and south, and Greenville is about 15 miles north and east.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is enclosed and available for review at the Plumas National Forest Supervisors Office; 157 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA, 95971 and at the following internet address: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas/projects/>. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Merri Carol Martens, Mt. Hough Ranger Station, 39696 Highway 70, Quincy, CA, 95971, telephone (530) 283-0555.



The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. Those who provide comments or otherwise express interest during the comment period provided at 40 CFR 1503.1 are eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS in the Federal Register on Friday, August 4, 2006, the opportunity to provide comments to establish eligibility to appeal under 36 CFR 215 ends 45 days following that date. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted. The publication date of the NOA in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in a draft EIS. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Written comments must be submitted to: Responsible Official James M. Peña, Plumas National Forest Supervisor, at P.O. Box 11500, 157 Lawrence St., Quincy, CA 95971 (FAX: 530-283-7746). . The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone 530-283-7810 or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely comments or otherwise express interest will have eligibility to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215.

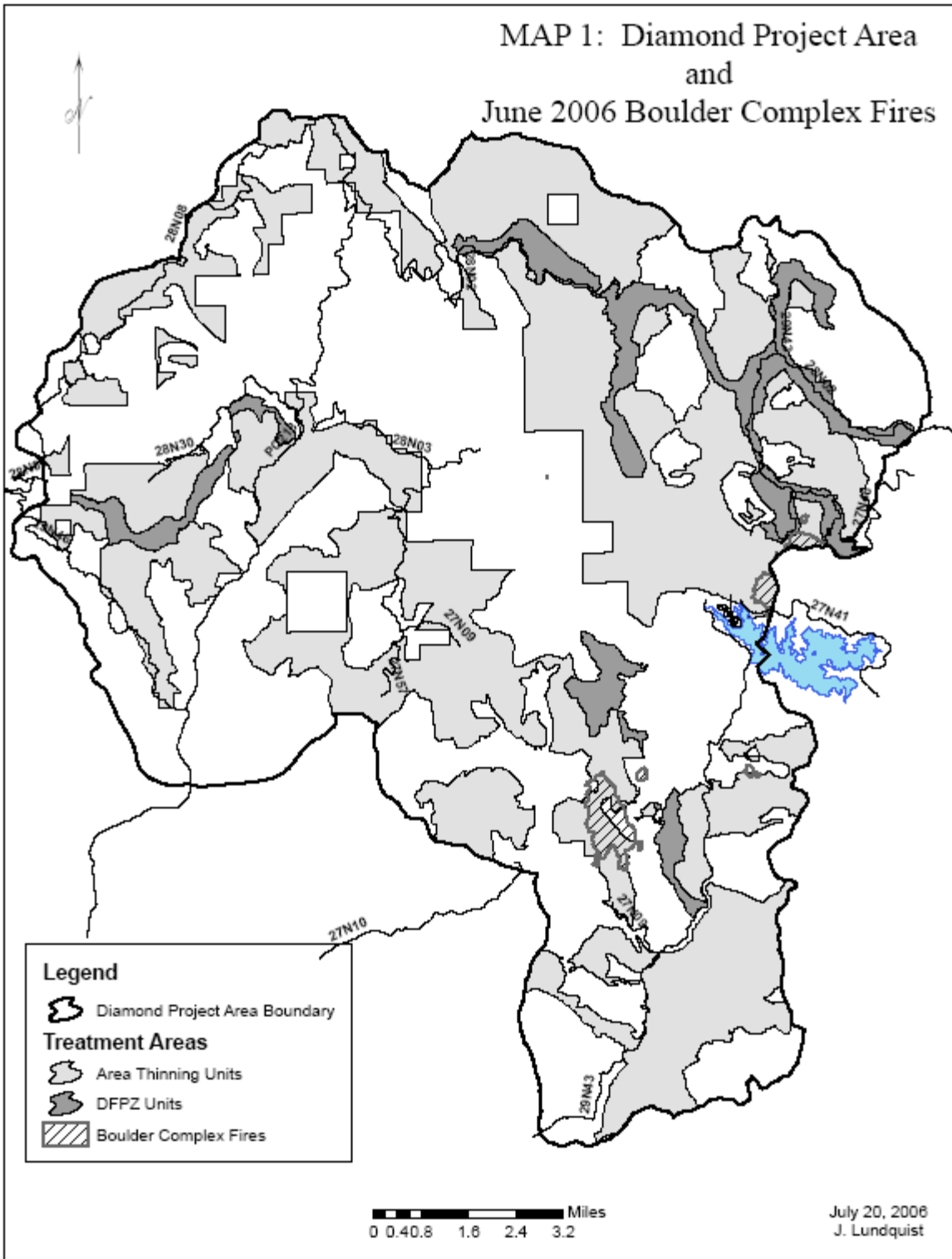
Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

Sincerely,

//s//
JAMES M. PEÑA
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

MAP 1: Diamond Project Area and June 2006 Boulder Complex Fires



MAP 2: Diamond Project Area/Wildlife Analysis Area
and
June 2006 Boulder Complex Fires

