

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and
Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications
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**Glaze Forest Restoration Project Environmental Assessment
Open for Public Comment**

SISTERS—The 30-day public comment period opens today for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Glaze Forest Restoration Project on the Sisters Ranger District.

The project area is located adjacent to the eastern boundary of Black Butte Ranch and five miles northwest of the City of Sisters, Oregon. This 1,200-acre restoration project was proposed by Cal Mukumoto of the Warm Springs Biomass LLC and Tim Lillebo of Oregon Wild as collaboration between conservation and forest industry interests and the Forest Service to build trust and break barriers in active restoration of old growth forests east of the Cascades.. The partnership works on ecosystem goals and community and economic values to provide a model for active forest restoration projects in the future.

Approximately half of the project area was clearcut in the 1930's and is dominated by young trees while the other half is remnant old growth ponderosa pine forest. The proposal would thin trees, mow, and introduce prescribed fire in old and second growth forests and riparian areas to replicate historic fire maintained ecosystems. The project would prolong the life of old trees and promote the development of fire resilient forests with more large trees, diverse riparian forests, aspen stands, and meadows. The project also meets many of the goals of the Greater Sisters Country Community Wildfire Protection Plan to reduce wildfire risk around communities and improve firefighter safety.

“This is a groundbreaking project and it has focused a lot of attention on the efforts to restore and protect old growth. We hope people will review the assessment and provide comments that will help us craft the final decision,” said Sisters District Ranger Bill Anthony.

In addition to providing comments on the EA, the public is invited to tour the area and discuss the tree thinning marking on April 15th from 12:30 pm to 4 pm. The EA has a 30-day comment period that begins on March 21st and ends on April 21st. For details about the field tour or to obtain information on how to review the document and provide comments, please contact Project Leader, Maret Pajutee, P.O. Box 249, Sisters, Oregon 97759; Phone 541 549-7727, FAX (541) 549-7746, mpajutee@fs.fed.us.