



File Code: 1950-3

Date: December 19, 2008

Route To:

Subject: Pettijohn Project/Request for Comments

To: Project Participant

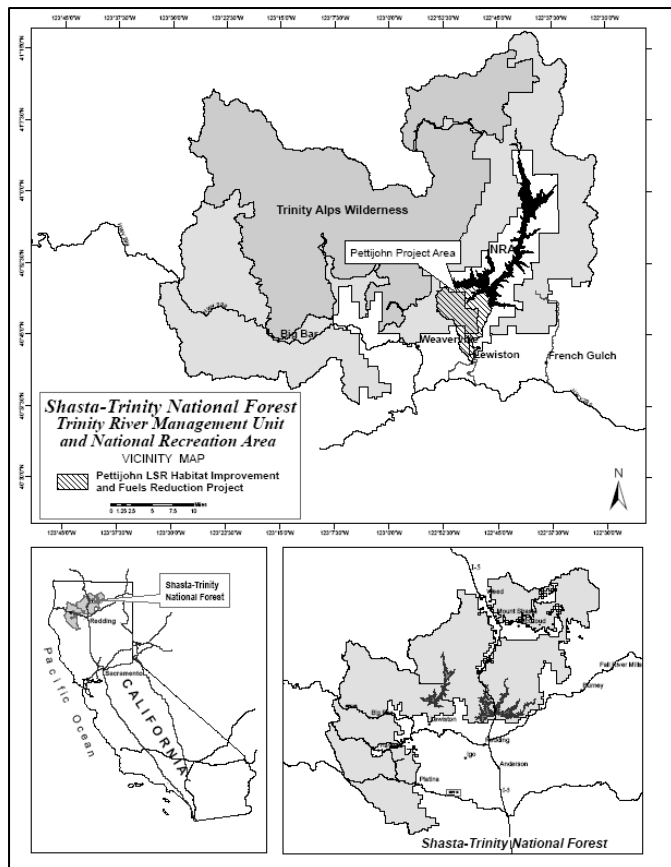
The Shasta-Trinity National Forest is proposing a project, the Pettijohn Late Successional Reserve Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction Project (Pettijohn Project), to provide enhanced protection from catastrophic wildfire, improve habitat for wildlife associated with old-growth ecosystems and provide for increased firefighter safety during future wildfires within the Clear Creek Late Successional Reserve (LSR). The project is consistent with the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA), which contains provisions to expedite hazardous fuels reduction and forest restoration projects on federal lands that are at risk to wildland fire or insect and disease epidemics. The Forest Service is preparing to conduct National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the environmental effects of the proposed actions.

The Pettijohn Project is located south of Trinity Lake near the communities of Lewiston and Weaverville, California, in sections 5-9, 16-21, 28, 32, and 33 in T34N, R8W; sections 4-8, 17, and 18 in T33N, R8W; and sections 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 24 in T34N, R9W (Mt. Diablo Meridian). The enclosed Notice of Intent and project map explain the purpose and need and proposed activities in greater detail.

### Your Involvement

Projects authorized under HFRA are defined under Section 102 (a) (5) (B) of the act and are designed to actively involve the public in reducing the risk of catastrophic fire to communities and protecting threatened and endangered species habitat.

The Forest Service began public involvement for this project in mid-October by inviting the public through mailings and public notice to participate in an HFRA public meeting in Lewiston, California, on November 12, 2008. This meeting was held to encourage collaboration on the project with Federal, State and local Governments, Tribes, community-based groups, landowners and other interested persons. At this meeting the preliminary proposed action for the Pettijohn Project, designed by an interdisciplinary team of resource



specialists, was discussed. The comments and suggestions from this meeting were used to refine the preliminary proposed action. Further collaborative efforts throughout the NEPA process may result in additional modifications to this proposed action. If significant issues are raised that cannot be addressed by modifying the proposed action, the Forest Service would develop other action alternatives.

You are invited to participate in the NEPA analysis for this project by providing written comments during this public scoping period. If you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of or feel you have issues (points of dispute, debate, or disagreement) regarding potential effects of this proposed action, please send your comments in writing to the address listed at the close of this letter.

More information on the project, including information gathered during HFRA public meetings, is available online at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity/projects/hq-projects.shtml>.

### **Purpose and Need for Action / Proposed Action**

The purpose of the proposed action is to enhance and protect habitat for wildlife species associated with old-growth forest ecosystems, particularly the northern spotted owl, in the Clear Creek LSR.

The Pettijohn Project involves thinning dense conifer stands to accelerate development of old-growth characteristics, create Fuel Management Zones, and reduce fuels in high risk areas. Thinning from below in dense mixed conifer stands is proposed on 1,155 acres; linear Fuel Management Zones on 1,995 acres; and fuels reduction in high risk areas on 101 acres. The proposal includes road reconstruction (2 miles) on existing roads to improve drainage and reduce erosion and road decommissioning (2.3 miles). No new system roads would be constructed.

### **Decision to be Made**

The Forest Supervisor will decide whether to implement the proposed action, implement an alternative action that meets the purpose and need or take no action. The decision may include a non-significant forest plan amendment that permits treatment of stands older than 80 years within LSR.

### **Where to Send Comments**

Send written comments to: Tom Quinn, Weaverville Ranger Station, P.O. Box 1190, Weaverville, CA, 96093. Electronic comments can be sent via e-mail to: [comments-pacificsouthwest-shastatrinity@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-shastatrinity@fs.fed.us), indicate "Pettijohn Project" in the subject line.

To ensure that your issues can be fully considered by the interdisciplinary team and the Responsible Official, please submit comments by January 20, 2009 (30 days after publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register).

We appreciate your interest in the management of our public lands and look forward to hearing from you.

*/s/ Alan Olson (for)*  
J. SHARON HEYWOOD  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures