

Big Cabbage Hazard Trees (21580)

Draft Memorandum

Stanislaus National Forest
Calaveras Ranger District
Calaveras County, California

This draft memorandum provides documentation, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), related to improving public safety by treating trees that have been determined to be hazardous to road users. The guidelines for maintenance of system roads found in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 7709.58, Transportation System Handbook, specifically require removal of hazardous trees along Forest Roads. The proposed project is located in the Cabbage Patch road area of the Calaveras Ranger District (Sec. 17-20 & 28-30, T7N R17E; and Sec. 11-13 & 24, T7N R16E).

Proposed Action

The Calaveras Ranger District is proposing to perform routine road maintenance, which may include minor slide and slump repair, clearing roadside vegetation to obtain sight distance, ditch cleaning, culvert maintenance, maintaining existing road surface, sign installation, and the felling and removal of dead and dying trees that pose an immediate threat, and trees that pose a future danger of falling onto roads that have high use and provide access to popular areas on the district. These roads include 7N09 (including spurs B, C, D, E, F, G, H & L), 7N11, 7N16, 7N18Y, 7N55, 7N55A, 7N57, 7N62Y, 7N62YA, 7N69, 7N69A & B, 7N72, 7N82Y, 7N84Y, & 7N84Y (including spurs A & B).

Proposed Decision

My **proposed** decision is to implement the Big Cabbage Hazard Trees project.

My **preliminary** assessment is that this proposal falls within a category of actions listed in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and no extraordinary circumstances¹ would preclude use of the category: FSH 1909.15, Chapter 31.12 (4) "Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries".

Resource specialists have provided input and it is included in the project file. I have considered their findings in making this decision.

Reasons for the Proposed Decision

In summary, I **proposed** this decision to implement the Big Cabbage Hazard Trees project because it protects public health and safety by removing the dead and dying trees within the project area that pose an immediate threat to life and property.

Findings Required by Other Laws

As required by NFMA Section 1604(i), this action is consistent with the Stanislaus National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended.

Contact Person

For further information concerning this action, please contact Jim Junette, 5519 Highway 4; PO Box 500; Hathaway Pines, CA 95233; 209-795-1381 ext. 333.

¹ The mere presence of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. It is (1) the existence of a cause-effect relationship between a proposed action and the potential effect on these resource conditions and (2) if such a relationship exists, the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determines whether extraordinary circumstances exist.