



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Henry's Prescribed Burn

Eldorado National Forest

Placerville Ranger District

The Eldorado National Forest will be prescribed burning in the vicinity of Grizzly Flat, CA. This project will treat approximately 2,000 acres using hand and aerial fire applications during the spring and/or fall of 2009. Additional activities will include hand line construction and hand thinning of small diameter trees (1" to 9") and brush along control lines to reduce holding concerns. Prescribed burning would occur in the spring (approximately 900 acres) and/or fall (approximately 1100 acres).

Purpose

This predominately ponderosa pine forest area contains areas of extremely steep slopes and dense vegetation which could result in severe fire behavior and endanger the communities. The purpose of the Henry's Prescribed Fire Project is to:

- ◆ Reduce the quantity of hazardous fuels or dense, overgrown vegetation; such as, brush and small trees that can lead a fire from the ground to the crown of the trees like a *ladder*.
- ◆ Provide protection for the local communities.
- ◆ Reintroduce fire into the ecosystem.
- ◆ Improve habitat for deer.
- ◆ Allow firefighters a safer area to engage a wildfire.

Location

The Henry's Prescribed Fire Project area is located south of the Grizzly Flat Community, north of the Cosumnes River and south of Grizzly Flat Road. (T9N R13E Sec 26-35)

For more information or to be added to our Smoke Contact list:

Placerville Ranger District

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Need

There is a need to reduce the quantity of fuels on the ground for community protection in the wildland urban interface (WUI) area around the Grizzly Flat Community.

The National Fire Plan, developed after the severe wildfire season in 2000, provides direction to the Forest Service to reduce the amount of hazardous fuel in fire-prone forests to protect people and sustain resources. The **wildland urban interface (WUI)** areas, where flammable wildland fuels are near homes and communities, is one of the highest priorities for treatment. The communities of Grizzly Flat and Omo Ranch are urban interface communities at high risk from wildfire .

The end goal for a WUI area is for fairly open stands of trees that are dominated primarily by large, fire tolerant trees. Additionally, the ground and *ladder* fuel conditions should be such that crown fire is highly unlikely .

Currently, the forest conditions vary through out the project area. Along ridge tops manzanita and bear clover are predominant, either occurring in patches or as a decedant part of the under story. Most of the stands have an overabundance of thick groups of small trees. The mid and lower slopes are dominated by brush with a scattering of conifers and hardwoods.

Removal of brush within the WUI area should occur to the extent that it will reduce the wildland fire spread and intensity sufficiently for firefighters to succeed in protecting human life and property.

Forest Service
Pacific Southwest
Region



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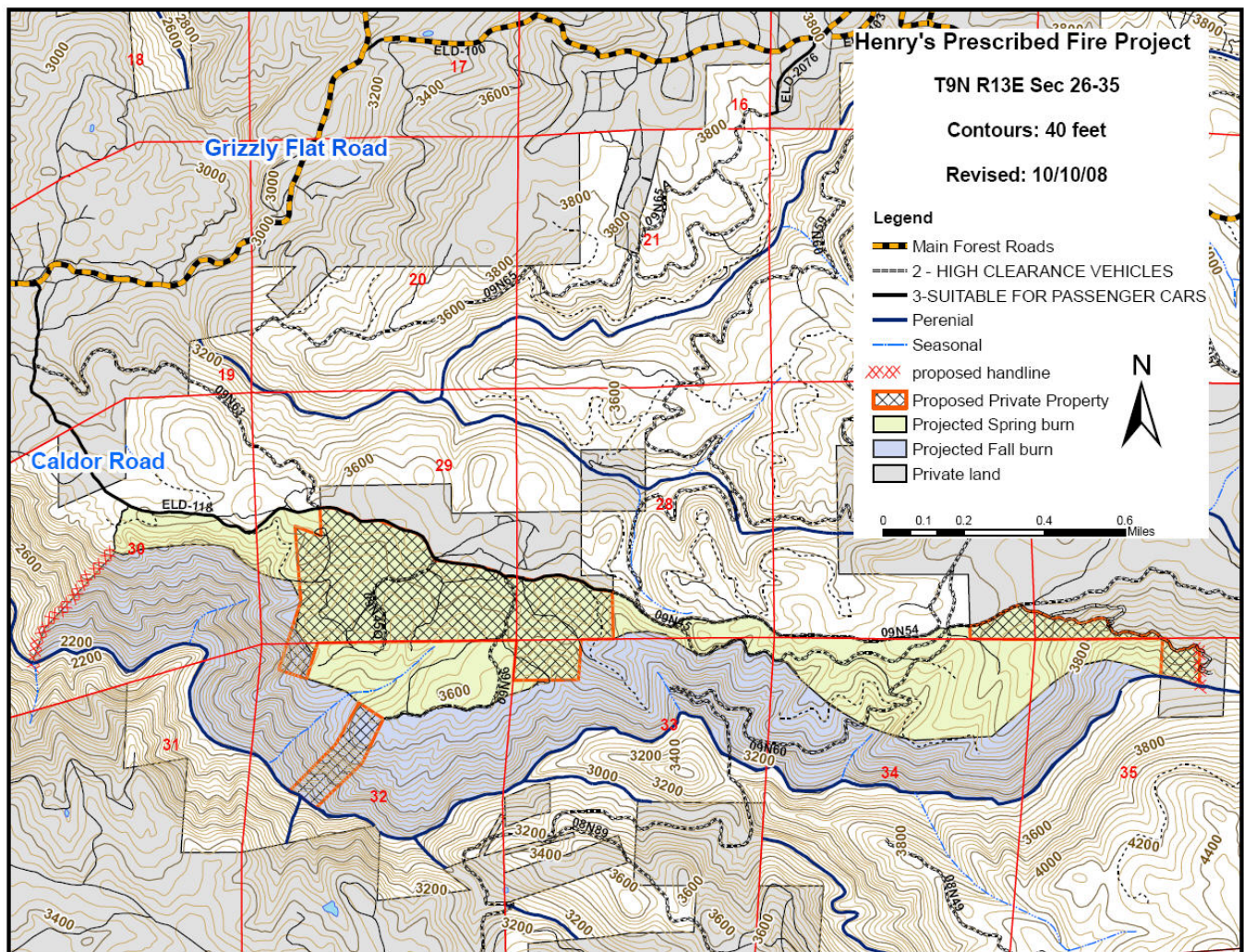
There is a need to reintroduce fire into this fire-adapted ecosystem.

Fire is a natural process operating as a component of an ecosystem. Lightning caused fires were frequent and burned at a low intensity. Historically, these fires kept the accumulation of ground litter, dead grass, thick brush, and dead trees at a low level. Around the turn of the century, we began to suppress forest fires. Over time, the reduction of wildland fire has caused understory vegetation to become so dense that when a fire does occur, they are larger and more intense.

Fire data records indicate that most of this project area has been without fire since data collection began in the early 1900's. Coupled with steep slopes, decadent brush, and a large quantities of ground fuels has left the project area susceptible to extreme fire behavior.

There is a need to improve critical winter range habitat for the Grizzly Flat deer herd.

The Henry's Burn project area includes 1,412 acres of critical winter range habitat used by the Grizzly Flat deer herd. Past fire suppression in the area has resulted in long-term vegetative changes that have reduced the availability of forage for the Grizzly Flat herd. The Grizzly Flat Deer Herd Management Plan recommends the use of prescribed fire to improve the quality of deer habitat in critical winter range areas. Prescribed fire would increase sprouting of black oaks, increase the development of shrubs in small openings, and promote resprouting of more edible and accessible food in the montane chaparral habitat occurring in the project area.



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