



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Intermountain
Region

February 23, 2009

Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact

Clear Creek Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Enhancement Project

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Carson Ranger District
Carson City and Douglas Counties, Nevada



A Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project

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DECISION AND REASONS FOR THE DECISION

INTRODUCTION

In December 2008, an Interdisciplinary Team completed the Clear Creek Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Enhancement Project Environmental Assessment (EA) for this analysis area. The EA disclosed the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that will result from the proposed action. This EA is available on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest website at: www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/#carson.

The Clear Creek fuels reduction and ecosystem enhancement analysis area encompasses approximately 12,190 acres of land, approximately 7,230 acres are National Forest Systems lands.

The project is located within the Carson River/Buckbrush Well, Carson Valley, and Carson River/Stewart Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) six watersheds. The elevation of the analysis area ranges from 5,400 to 8,600 feet. The legal description for the analysis area is Township 14 North, Range 19 East, sections 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and Township 15 North, Range 19 East, sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35 and 36. A vicinity map of the analysis area is located in Appendix B, Figure 1.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose and need for this project includes:

- Reduce wildland fire risk to the Clear Creek, Carson City and Kings Canyon communities and reduce fuel loading and ladder fuels in forested and shrub areas adjacent to the wildland urban interface west of Carson City. Currently dense vegetative conditions with high fuel loading and excessive ladder fuels create a high risk of uncharacteristic catastrophic wildland fires.
- Reduce dense vegetation to increase vigor, health and growth rates in the forested ecosystem. Competition from high tree densities has reduced stand vigor, thus increasing the possibility that insects, disease, or wildfire would kill the forested stands, including late and older successional trees.
- Improve aspen stands that are declining from encroaching conifer trees that shade out and replace sun-loving aspen.
- Improve the quantity and quality of mule deer forage and deer winter range. In some areas, bitterbrush and sagebrush is old and decadent, providing poor forage for mule deer.
- Provide defensible areas for firefighters to control and/or suppress future wildland fires.

DECISION

I have decided to implement the proposed action as described in the EA. Minor changes or additions have been made to the proposed action from the EA, these include:

- Thinning of Forested Acres - On approximately 1,250 acres, thinning of trees less than 30" dbh will occur and on up to 750 acres thinning of trees less than 14" dbh will occur. Within the 750 acres where trees less than 14" dbh will be thinned, approximately 150 acres will be located within California spotted owl or Northern goshawk Protected Activity Centers (PACs).
- Aspen Enhancement - underburning activities will not occur where historic sites can not be protected.
- Archeological design features will include flagging and avoiding all archeological sites.

With the implementation of the proposed action, the following will occur:

Up to 4,200 acres may be treated. Some areas will receive more than one type of treatment, such as the same acre being thinned and underburned. Maps of the proposed action are located in Appendix B, Figures 2 and 3.

Thinning on Forested Areas. On approximately 2,000 acres, trees will be thinned from below, favoring fir species for removal. On approximately 1,250 acres, thinning of trees less than 30" dbh; on 750 acres thinning of trees less than 14" dbh. Within the 750 acres where trees less than 14" dbh will be thinned, approximately 150 acres will be located within California spotted owl or Northern goshawk PACs. In areas where trees less than 30" dbh are thinned, approximately 23% (300 acres) will utilize a ground based logging system and 77% (1,000 acres) will utilize a helicopter logging system. Skid trails will be constructed for ground based treatment areas. This treatment will involve thinning from below by generally removing smaller trees that are most susceptible to wildfire and leaving the dominant tallest trees that are less susceptible to fire. Residual overstory trees will be irregularly spaced across the landscape and small groups of typically three to six closely spaced overstory trees will be left to retain structural diversity. Insect infested trees will be removed. Whole tree yarding will be utilized in most areas to remove the tops and limbs of trees generally greater than 8" dbh. Trees will be thinned to lower densities, 60 square feet of basal area per acre, along roads and Forest Service boundaries for a distance of 100 to 200 feet, dependent on road location or boundary location, slope, topography and vegetation. Away from roads and Forest Service boundaries, trees will be thinned to 80 to 100 square feet of basal area per acre. Where high quality wildlife habitat exists, small pockets of trees will remain. These pockets will be retained where the fuels and forest conditions are such that the risk to crown fire in the surrounding area is lower and tree vigor is fairly high. Trees will be thinned to 100 square feet of basal area per acre for a distance of 200 feet around the untreated pockets.

On approximately 700 acres, trees less than 14" dbh will be thinned. This treatment will occur in areas of smaller diameter trees and within some Northern goshawk and California spotted owls protected activity centers. Hand thinning, mastication and prescribed fire will be utilized to treat these areas.

Mastication equipment will be utilized where access and slope allow and hand crews will be utilized in steeper, more inaccessible areas. Slash resulting from this activity will be a) shredded in the masticated areas; b) lopped and scattered in areas proposed for underburning; c) piled and burned in areas where underburning is not feasible, but pile burning is; and d) lopped and scattered and left on site in inaccessible areas where prescribed burning is not feasible.

Generally trees in the suppressed and intermediate crown classes will be removed, though some trees in the co-dominant crown class will be removed, primarily in the 60 to 80 residual basal area areas. The majority of trees targeted for removal will be the smaller diameter trees that are competing with mature overstory trees or with more vigorous trees in the same canopy layers. The average size of trees that will be harvested, based on stand examination data and FVS, is estimated at 13" dbh. Generally, trees will be whole-tree yarded, so the tops and limbs will be removed, as well as the tree bole. Depending on market conditions, on the steeper or more inaccessible areas, trees less than 8" dbh may be felled, lopped and scattered or underburned. Canopy cover will be reduced by an average of 10 percent throughout the forested area and quadratic mean diameters will be increased by an average of 18" dbh. An average of 400 trees per acre will be removed; this includes removal of as many as 1,300 mostly small diameter trees less than one foot tall per acre in some underburned areas to as few as 20 trees per acre. Stand density index will be an average of 123, which is 27 percent of the maximum. Approximately 3,000 CCF (1,700 MBF) of volume will be removed.

Generally the largest and most vigorous trees will be retained to achieve the target basal area. The exception to this will be in areas successfully infested with bark beetles. Trees approaching the upper diameter limit of 30" dbh will be harvested only where needed to reduce competition for sunlight and nutrients and maintain more vigorous and larger trees growing in proximity.

Maintenance will be required in the treated areas to maintain more open conditions. Without maintenance conifer and brush regeneration will eventually put the stand at a risk from insect, disease, high severity wildland fire and competition related mortality. Maintenance may include mastication, piling and burning, additional thinning, or underburning.

Excessive Down Fuel Accumulation. In accessible areas, existing large dead, down trees will be masticated, piled and burned or removed. This treatment will occur on approximately 100 acres.

Aspen Enhancement. On approximately 250 acres, aspen stands will be enhanced by removing conifers and expanded by removal of conifers a tree and half length from the edge of the aspen stand, up to a maximum of 100 feet. Generally, conifers less than 30" dbh will be removed. Underburning will occur in aspen stands if conifer removal does not stimulate aspen regeneration, no pile burning will occur within aspen stands. Approximately 135 acres will be treated utilizing a helicopter logging system and 115 acres will be treated utilizing a ground-based (tractor) logging system. No underburning will occur where there are dense historic sites or historic sites can not be protected.

Shrub Treatments. This will involve thinning of shrubs and small sized trees up to 14" dbh on up to 750 acres. Mechanical treatments will include mastication to shred and

masticate shrubs and small trees with equipment. Hand treatments will include cutting of some shrubs and noncommercial trees up to 14" dbh and piling and burning or removal or underburning. Shrubs will be treated in a mosaic pattern and residual densities will be 30% to 80% depending on the location. Residual trees will have brush removed around them for a distance of approximately ten to twenty feet. Areas adjacent to the Forest Service boundary that have or are planned for development will generally have more intense treatments and interior areas will generally have less intense treatments.

Prescribed Burning. This treatment will include both underburning and pile burning and will occur in aspen, conifer and shrub areas on up to 2,000 acres. Pile burning will occur in areas where shrub or non-commercial trees are hand thinned and piled and not removed. Underburning will occur where location, slope and vegetation densities are such that objectives will be met. Burning will only occur under desirable weather conditions. These safe weather conditions will be analyzed and documented in an approved burn plan, which will be completed prior to any prescribed burning activities.

Animal Treatments to Reduce Cheatgrass and Invasive Species. In areas where these species may dominate the site various methods will be utilized to reduce densities. These methods will include hand pulling, utilization by domestic sheep or goats and seeding with native grasses. Monitoring will identify locations where treatments will occur and may occur within any of the lower elevation shrub areas.

Biomass Removal. Slash brought to the landing, primarily limbs and tops of trees, and non-commercial timber, could be utilized for biomass. Some areas where shrubs and small trees are cut by hand crews that are accessible to roads may be removed as biomass. Some of the biomass utilization opportunities in this area include Christmas trees, fuel for cogeneration plants, biofuels production, landscaping materials and furniture.

Roads and Landings. Existing roads will be utilized; no new permanent roads will be constructed. A temporary road, up to ½ mile in length may be needed to access some of the area. The proposed action includes road maintenance on approximately five miles of road, including portions of the Genoa Peak, Kings Canyon and Spooner Roads. This maintenance will include removal of any downed trees, brushing out road sides, blading road beds, including ditches where needed, cleaning culverts, constructing water bars and hazard tree felling.

Maintenance. Maintenance will include additional repeated treatments to remove ladder and surface fuels and maintain the project area. Maintenance may include brush and small tree mastication, hand cutting, piling and burning or removal of small trees and brush and underburning. Maintenance may occur within three years of initial treatment.

DECISION DESIGN FEATURES

Fire/Fuels

- All Federal, State and local regulations pertaining to prescribed burning will be followed. A Region 4 approved burn plan will be completed and followed.

- A news release will be distributed to media contacts and the general public contacted prior to the burning season to notify the local community of the prescribed burning.
- Where feasible, require whole tree yarding, with limbs and tops attached, to reduce surface fuels.

Archeology

- All archeological sites will be flagged and avoided during project implementation.
- Trees will be directionally felled away from identified archeological sites.
- No slash piles will occur in identified archeological sites, any slash within site boundaries will be removed by hand.
- Temporary roads and skid trails will avoid archeological sites.

Wildlife/Sensitive Plants

- Around raptor nest sites in aspen stands, trees will not be removed for ¼ acre around the nest site.
- Where available, three of the largest snags per acre will be retained.
- Large woody debris will be retained, at least 3 pieces per acre, greater than 12” dbh or the largest available.
- On approximately 450 conifer acres within PACs, no treatment activities will occur to protect nesting habitat for spotted owls and Northern goshawks.
- On approximately 150 acres, within PACs, no trees greater than 14” dbh will be removed improve and protect habitat for spotted owls and Northern goshawks.
- In aspen stands, harvest activities will not occur in April to July during migratory bird breeding season.
- Washoe tall rockcress plant populations will be flagged and avoided.

Soils/Hydrology

- Rehabilitation of skid trails may include ripping, seeding and waterbar construction.
- Temporary roads will be obliterated.
- Native seed mix will be used during project rehabilitation efforts.
- Multiple pass skid trails will be located a minimum of 100 feet apart except where they converge at landings.
- Generally, ground based equipment will operate on slopes less than 35% (30% on decomposed granite soils), except for pitches of 150 feet or less. However, ground based operations may occur on slopes up to 50%; these will be designed on a unit by unit basis only after soil stability, soil rock content and the location of the steep

slope in relation to the remaining portions of the treatment unit have been determined to be appropriate by the Forest Service.

- No trees will be removed where they provide stream bank stability.
- Equipment exclusion zone within 50 feet of a seasonal stream and 100 feet of perennial streams, except for equipment crossing areas.
- Ground based equipment will stay on established stream crossings.
- Where feasible, require whole tree yarding, with limbs and tops attached, to minimize underburning intensity.
- Pile burning will be minimized in riparian conservation areas.

Air Quality

- Prescribed fires are subject to permitting by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). For each prescribed fire, the Forest Service will have contingency plans identified to reduce smoke emissions. Contingency plans shall be implemented when the NDEP determines that acceptance limits of smoke are exceeded, and/or the Forest Service anticipated that the prescription for a prescribed fire will be exceeded.
- When mechanical fuels treatment operations occur, dirt roads will be monitored for air quality compliance with the standards set forth by the NDEP.

Noxious Weeds

- Equipment will be cleaned and inspected prior to moving onto National Forest System lands. Equipment will be washed prior to entering National Forest System lands to remove any soil and debris that may harbor noxious weed seeds.
- If road surface material is needed to repair roads, sources will be inspected and determined to be weed free.
- When seeding is required, seed will be tested as weed free.
- Known occurrences of noxious weeds will be managed.

Vegetation

- Skid trails will be designated on ground based skidding units. Skid trails will be located so damage to the residual stand is minimized.
- Retain all trees greater than 30" dbh, except where removal is necessary for operational safety or for roads or landings.

Recreation

- Project activities will not interfere with Aramark special use snowmobile permit operations.

MONITORING

This project will use an adaptive management approach, where the treatments are implemented, monitored and adapted. Monitoring will determine if the desired conditions are being met. Adjustments to project prescriptions based on monitoring within the general scope of the proposed action analyzed in this document would not need a new decision. Any adjustments outside the scope of the proposed action would likely require a new decision. Monitoring actions would include those discussed in Table 1.

Table 1 Monitoring Actions

Action	Method	Timing	Responsibility
Evaluate the effectiveness of tree and fuels treatments in meeting resource objectives	Field exams and photo points	Pre and post project activities	Silviculturist, Fuels Specialist, Wildlife Biologist
Evaluate burning conditions, fuel consumption and fire effectiveness	Fuels treatment inventory	Pre, during and post burn	Fuels Specialist and Burn Boss
Effectiveness of weed treatments and seeding	Field exams and photo points	Pre and post activity	Fuels Specialist, Invasive Weed Specialist, Botanist
Effectiveness of aspen enhancement areas	Photo points and field exams	Pre and post activity	Silviculturist
Effectiveness of aspen treatments on migratory bird populations	Bird point count surveys	Pre and post activity	Wildlife Biologist
Ensure archeological sites are not impacted	Field exams	Pre, during and post activity	Archeologist, Sale Prep Forester
Ensure contracts are correctly implemented.	Inspections	During and post activities	Contracting Officer, COR, Sale Administrator

DECISION RATIONALE

I am selecting the Proposed Action at this time because:

- I find the project is consistent with the Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment.
- This decision is consistent with the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003.
- Internal issues were considered during the development of the Proposed Action and were attenuated through a combination of project design and the incorporation of design features. Scoping and collaborative comments were analyzed to identify both issues and project alternatives that should be considered. Issues were used to frame the analysis in the EA.
- The selected Proposed Action meets the purpose and need by reducing the wildland fire risk to the Clear Creek, Carson City, and Kings Canyon communities and reducing fuel loading and ladder fuels in forested and shrub areas adjacent to the wildland urban interface West of Carson City. The risk of crown fire hazard was reduced with the Proposed Action.
- The selected Proposed Action meets the purpose and need by reducing dense vegetation and increasing vigor, health and growth rates within the forested areas. Trees per acre, basal areas and stand density indexes were all reduced, providing improved forested ecosystems. Most stand density indexes were decreased to levels below full site occupancy. This improved forest health will reduce the long-term risk of loss, while enhancing productivity.
- The selected Proposed Action meets the purpose and need by improving aspen stands in a declining condition by removal of encroaching conifers.
- The selected Proposed Action meets the purpose and need by improving the quantity and quality of mule deer forage and deer winter range. Removal of some older, decadent shrubs will allow for younger, more vigorous shrubs, which are more palatable and nutritious for deer.
- The selected Proposed Action meets the purpose and need by providing defensible areas for firefighters to control and/or suppress future wildland fires.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Pursuant to Section 104 (d) (2) of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA), no other alternatives were developed. However, the consequences of taking no action were considered in the EA.

The purpose of the HFRA is in part to: (A) reduce wildfire risk to communities, municipal water supplies, and other at-risk Federal land through a collaborative process of planning, prioritizing, and implementing hazardous fuel reduction projects; (B) enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire, across the landscape and; (C) protect, restore, and enhance forest ecosystem components, promoting the recovery of threatened and

endangered species to improve biological diversity and enhance productivity and carbon sequestration (HR 1904).

The Clear Creek Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Enhancement analysis was completed under HFRA. This project is an authorized hazardous fuels reduction project in accordance with the HFRA because:

- The project is located on Federal lands within a wildland urban interface (WUI) area of an at-risk community.
- The project is being conducted under sections 103 and 104 of the HFRA

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COLLABORATION

The Forest Service used multiple methods to develop the proposed action and determine the major issues that would affect the decision on this project. The Forest Service involved members of the public, interested private groups, and State and local agencies, including:

Collaborated with the Nevada Division of Forestry, Washoe Tribe and Nevada, Clear Creek Watershed Council, Nevada Fire Safe Council and the Clear Creek Fire Safe Chapter.

Published the Notice of Proposed Action and Opportunity to Comment in the Reno Gazette Journal on August 12, 2008.

Listed the project in the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA), published quarterly by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National, in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Mailed the Notice of Proposed Action/Opportunity to Comment to 72 interested individuals and adjacent landowners on June 30th, 2008.

Held a public meeting in Carson City, Nevada to discuss the proposed projects on July 23rd, 2008.

Published the Notice of the Clear Creek Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Enhancement Project Environmental Assessment in the Reno Gazette Journal on December 31, 2008 for 30-day objection period.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Clear Creek Finding of No Significant Impact incorporates by reference the Clear Creek Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Enhancement EA and the associated Project Record. After considering the environmental effects described in the EA, I have determined that these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). Thus, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. I base my finding on the following:

1. My finding of no significant environmental effects is not biased by the beneficial effects of the action.
2. There will be no significant effects on public health and safety. The project will reduce the risk of health and safety related problems from a catastrophic wildland fire, while managing air quality concerns. A burn plan will also be completed prior to burning; the burn plan will address public safety and air quality during prescribed burning (EA Environmental Consequences – Fire/Fuels (pgs. 3-2 to 3-13) and Air Quality (pgs. 3-20 to 3-21)).
3. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area. Parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild or scenic rivers or ecologically critical areas are not present within the analysis area. This project area is one of the remaining areas yet to see a catastrophic, stand-replacing wildland fire along the Carson Front Range. This project will help protect that character by reducing the risk of a catastrophic wildland fire and improve the vigor of the existing vegetation (EA Environmental Consequences – Fire/Fuels (pgs. 3-2 to 3-13) and Vegetation (pgs. 3-13 to 3-20)).
4. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial because there is no known scientific controversy over the impacts of the project. Public involvement revealed no legitimate scientific controversy over the environment impacts of the project. The effects analysis was based on reviewed scientific studies and analysis. The effects of implementation of this decision on the quality of the human environment are not likely to rise to the level of scientific controversy as defined by the Council of Environmental Quality (EA – Public Involvement (pgs. 1-11 to 1-12), Environmental Consequences (pgs. 3-1 to 3-46), and References (Appendix pgs. A-1 to A-6)).
5. The Forest Service has considerable experience with the types of activities to be implemented. The effects analysis shows the effects are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk.
6. The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, because this action is not unusual in itself and does not represent a decision in principle about future considerations. This project is part of a long term strategy to protect property and resources along the Carson Range (EA – Management Direction and Guidance, pg. 1-10).

7. The cumulative impacts are not significant, as documented in the EA. Although there will be individual short-term disturbance to some species, the proposed action will not contribute to a downward trend in populations (EA Environmental Consequences – Wildlife/Sensitive Plants (pgs. 3-22 to 3-36)). There will be a long-term benefit to the watersheds and forest health from reduction of tree densities and fuels (EA Environmental Consequences – Vegetation (pgs. 3-13 to 3-20) and Water/Soils (pgs. 3-39 to 3-42)).
8. The action will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A heritage resource field survey was completed for the project area and concurrence from the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office was obtained. The implementation activities will be designed to avoid impacting the historic archaeological resources identified in the project areas. Over the long term, the project will protect some of these resources by reducing the threat of a catastrophic wildland fire (EA Environmental Consequences – Heritage Resources (pgs. 3-21 to 3-22)).
9. The action will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, because there are none known to exist within the analysis area (EA Environmental Consequences - Wildlife/Sensitive Plants (pgs. 3-22 to 3-36)).
10. The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the EA. This decision will not adversely affect consumers, civil rights, minority groups, or woman. Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the EA (see findings below in Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations).

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, and the local tribes was completed. The project was designed in conformance with land and resource management plan standards and guidelines. My decision is consistent with all applicable laws, Executive orders, regulations and policies as summarized below:

National Forest Management Act (NFMA). This action is consistent with the Toiyabe Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment of 2004.

Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003. This project was analyzed and is an authorized hazardous fuels reduction project in accordance with the HFRA because the project is located on Federal lands within a wildland urban interface (WUI) area of an at-risk community. The project is being conducted under sections 103 and 104 of the HFRA.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The EA considered impacts to migratory birds. A limited operating period (LOP) within aspen stands will occur April to July during migratory bird breeding season. Short-term impacts are expected to migratory birds;

however, long term habitat conditions will be improved. This decision is in compliance with the MBTA requirements and executive order 13186.

Endangered Species Act of 1973. There are no Federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species with the project area, as documented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a letter dated December 2, 2008.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Forest Service conducted an intensive cultural site survey of the project area. Results of the survey were documented in a Cultural Resource Report, which concluded the project will have no effect on any known cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. On February 13, 2009, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the Forest Service findings.

Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) enforces compliance with the Clean Air Act. Burning permits are issued and administered by the NDEP. Smoke production and management, as analyzed in the EA, is consistent with the NDEP.

Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended. The EA analysis determined there will be no adverse impacts to water quality.

Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. This decision is in compliance with Executive Order 11988 and 11990 because it will have no impact on floodplains or wetlands.

Environmental Justice. This decision is in compliance with Executive Order 12989 because there will be no disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effect on minority or low-income populations.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The project may be implemented immediately following this decision. Implementation will most likely begin in the spring of 2009.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OR APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES

This proposed project is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218 Subpart A and is not subject to the notice, comment, and appeal procedures found in 36 CFR Part 215. Objections opportunities were provided from December 31, 2008 to January 29, 2009. No objections were filed during this period. Pursuant to 36 CFR, Part 218, no appeals are provided.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For copies of the Clear Creek Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Enhancement Environmental Assessment, please visit the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest web site at: www.fs.fed.us/htnf. You may also contact the Project Manager, Amanda Brinnand, Carson Ranger District, 1536 So. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701, 775-882-2766.

SIGNATURE PAGE

/s/ Genny Wilson
GENNY WILSON
District Ranger

February 23, 2009
Date Signed

APPENDIX B

MAPS

Figure 1 Vicinity Map

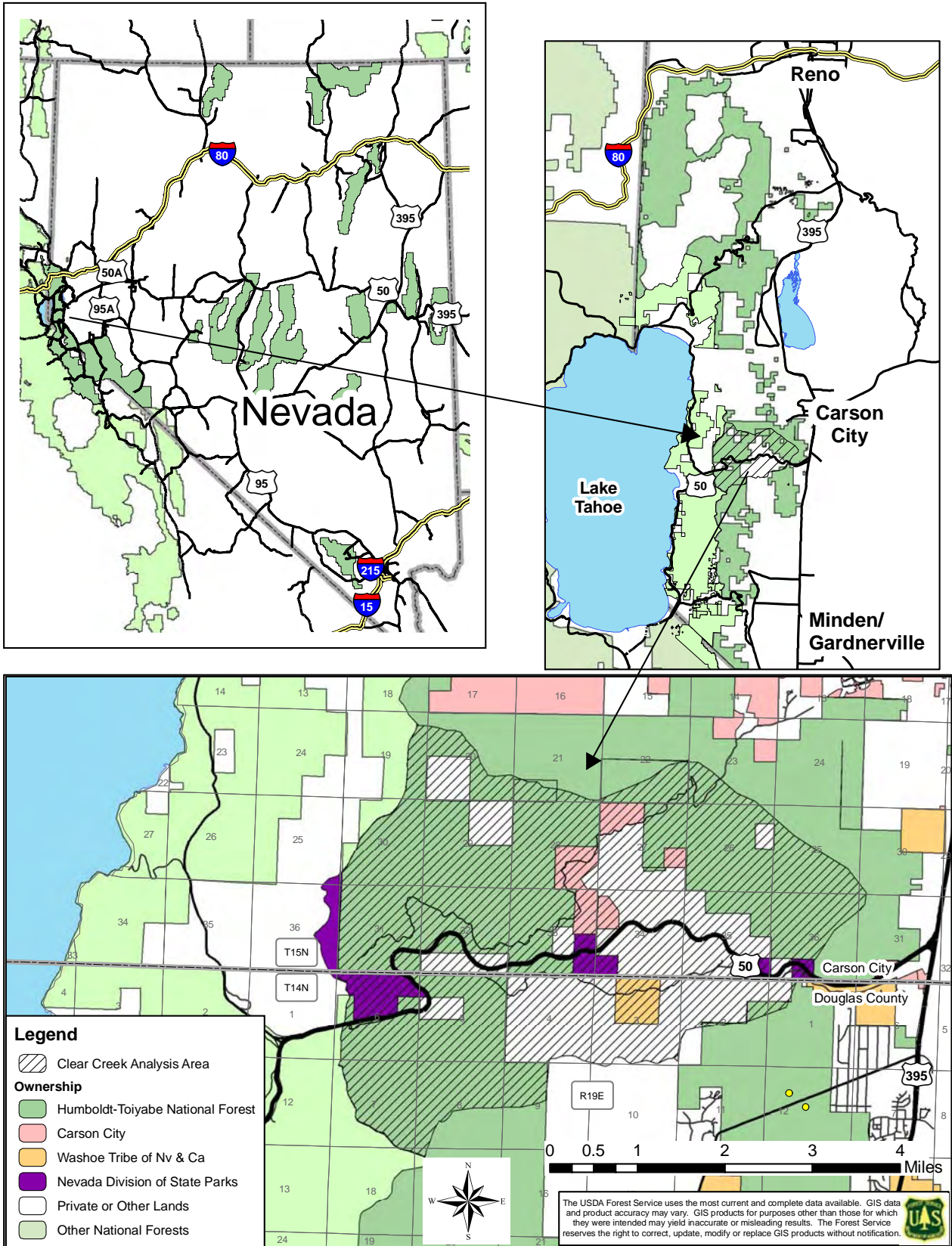


Figure 2 Proposed Action – Prescribed Burning.

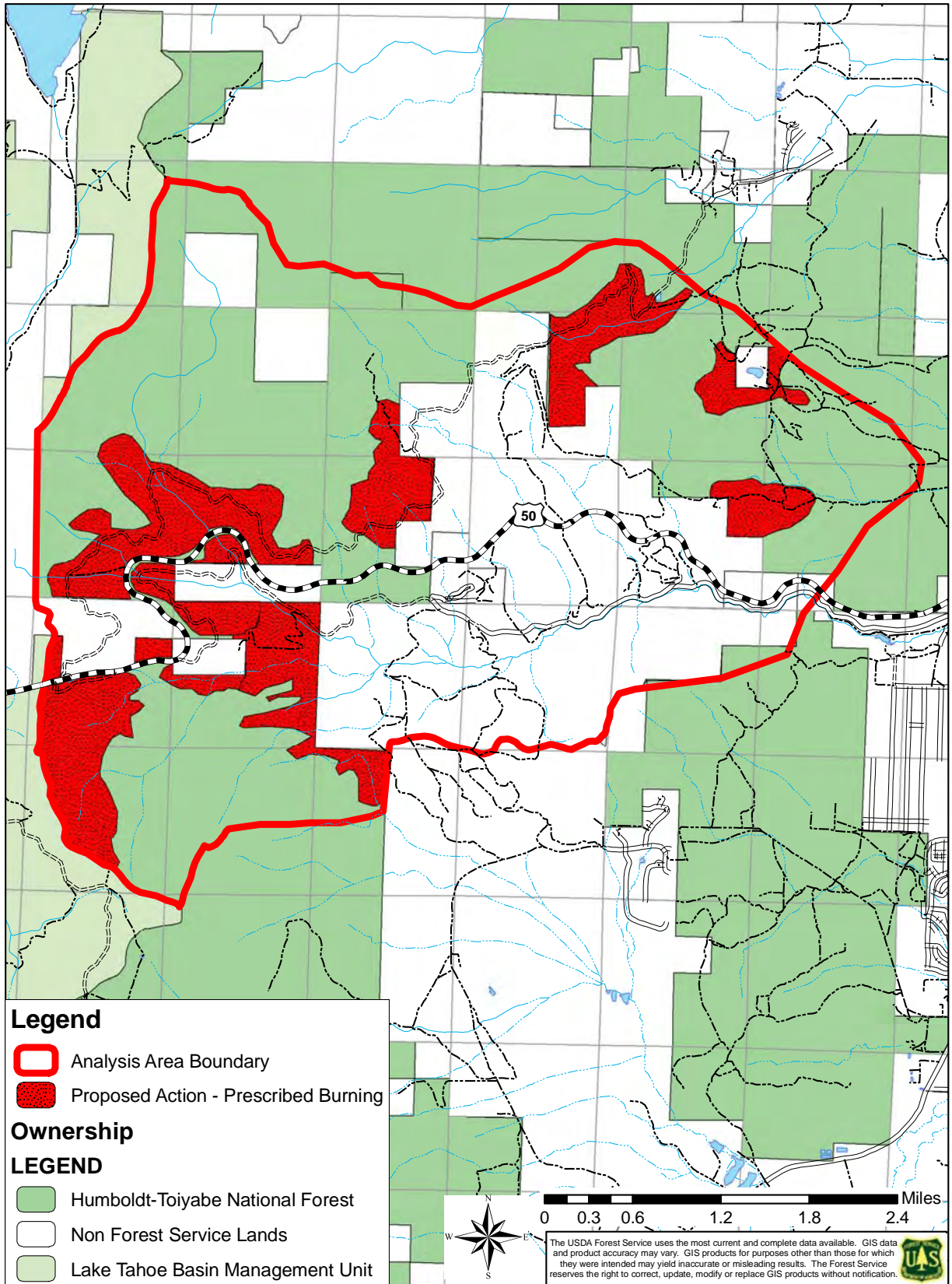


Figure 3. Proposed Action – Tree and Shrub Thinning and Aspen Enhancement

