

Ad for Publication

Ninemile Fuels Reduction Project HFRA Scoping Notice Fremont-Winema National Forests Chiloquin Ranger District Klamath County, Oregon

The Chiloquin Ranger District of the Fremont-Winema National Forest is seeking public input on a project to restore ecosystem health called the Ninemile Fuels Reduction Project. The Ninemile Project will thin trees in forest stands to reduce competition and reduce fuel ladders, and use mechanical treatments and prescribed fire to reduce natural fuels such as brush, limbs, and needles to lower fuel loadings. These treatments will make stands more sustainable in the face of wildfire, insects, and disease. Ninemile is designed to lower fire hazard and move treated areas toward forest structures and conditions present under the historic fire regime for this area. The Ninemile Project will complement the fuels treatments done on the Chiloquin Community Fuel Reduction Project to the west of Ninemile near the town of Chiloquin.

The legal location of the Ninemile Project is T34S, R8E Sec 19, 20, and 27-36; T35S, R8E Sec 1-5, 8-17, 21-28, and 33-35; T36S, R8E, Sec 3 and 4; T34S, R9E, Sec 17, 19-21, and 28-34; T35S, R9E, Sec 2-11, 16-20, and 30. About 18476 acres of federal lands are included in the project area. All treatments from this project are to take place on federal lands designated as Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA). There are concurrent efforts through the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Chiloquin-Agency Lake Fire Protection District to treat fuels on private lands in the Ninemile vicinity.

The Ninemile Project proposes approximately 3461 acres in units where commercial timber harvest is one part of the series of treatments needed to achieve the desired fuel reduction, and 3505 acres in units that, due to vegetative structure or past treatments, will not benefit from commercial harvest as part of the treatments. The Ninemile Fuels Reduction Project will be analyzed under the provisions of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) and the appropriate interim regulations. The HFRA and the regulations may be seen on the Winema National Forest website at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/winema/management/hfra/>

If you wish to obtain further information about the Ninemile Fuels Reduction Project, please contact Kevin Moore, Ninemile Team Leader, at 541-783-4001, or write us at Ninemile Fuels Reduction Project, Chiloquin Ranger District, 38500 Highway 97 North, Chiloquin, OR 97624. If you have comments and concerns specific to the project, please send them in writing to the above address, or they may be sent electronically to:

comments-pacificnorthwest-winema-chiloquin@fs.fed.us

There will be a public meeting on Ninemile on Wednesday, February 18, 2004 from 6 until 9 pm at the Chiloquin District Conference Room, 38500 Highway 97 North, Chiloquin, OR. The Ninemile Interdisciplinary Team will be available to answer any questions on Ninemile, and your written comments may be submitted at the meeting.

Comments should be received within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

Rick Ragan, District Ranger RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL