

Natural Resource News

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Fremont-Winema National Forests
Lakeview District BLM
October 27, 2003

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USDA's Fremont-Winema National Forests
(Includes Bly, Chemult, Chiloquin, Klamath, Lakeview, Paisley, and Silver Lake Ranger Districts)
USDI's Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District
(Includes Klamath Falls and Lakeview Resource Areas)

For Immediate Release

Silver Lake Ranger District Hosts Workshop For Toolbox Fire Recovery Project

Lakeview, OR: The Toolbox Fire Recovery Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released to the public on October 3, 2003 and is currently undergoing public review and comment. On July 12, 2002, a lightning storm ignited 67 fires on the Fremont National Forest. On Silver Lake Ranger District, two of these fires, the Toolbox Fire and the Silver Fire, became the primary fires within the Toolbox Complex. In total, the Toolbox Complex includes approximately 85,000 acres, 49,500 of which are on National Forest lands.

The DEIS analyzes a "No Action" alternative and five "Action" alternatives for managing the Toolbox Fire Recovery Project area. Actions include timber salvage, fuel reduction, road reconstruction, road closures and decommissionings, reforestation, and riparian and wildlife habitat improvement projects. Alternative G has been identified as the preferred alternative.

Silver Lake Ranger District will host a workshop on November 6, 2003 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the District office to provide the public with information regarding Toolbox DEIS alternative analysis, and the reasons for the selection of Alternative G as the preferred alternative. The DEIS does not reflect the Forest Supervisor's final decision, however, and the Toolbox Fire Recovery Project Interdisciplinary Team would like public input regarding the preferred alternative and the other alternatives. The Silver Lake Ranger District office is located one mile north of the Town of Silver Lake on Highway 31.

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Resource Specialists will be available during the workshop to present the alternatives and answer questions. Visitors may offer oral comments on the preferred alternative and the other alternatives. These comments will be recorded and considered when the Final Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared. Visitors will also be given the opportunity to submit written comments at the workshop.

For further information regarding the workshop, or how to submit comments on the Toolbox Fire Recovery Project DEIS, contact Rick Elston at the Silver Lake Ranger District, 541-576-7569. Members of the Toolbox Interdisciplinary Team are available to present additional workshops to public organizations upon request.

The Toolbox Fire Recovery Project DEIS is available on the Internet at:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/winema/management/analyses/toolbox/index2.shtml>. The public comment period ends November 17, 2003.

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