

Natural Resource News

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Fremont-Winema National Forests
Lakeview District BLM
February 20, 2004

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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

Decision Prompts Fire Salvage

Lakeview, Oregon – A recent decision renews salvage logging opportunities within the Winter Fire area, located in Lake County, Oregon, between Summer Lake and Winter Ridge.

On Friday, February 20, 2004, Karen Shimamoto signed a decision to re-implement salvage logging on approximately 3,000 acres within the Winter Fire area. In May 2003, Ms. Shimamoto, Fremont-Winema Forest Supervisor, issued a decision to implement the Winter Fire Salvage and Rehabilitation Project, located about 10 miles northwest of Paisley, Oregon. That decision was appealed in July and Forest Supervisor Shimamoto officially withdrew her decision in August 2003.

Since then, the project's environmental analysis was revised with additional information and clarification of the project. A 30-day public review period was then offered, closing in mid December. All comments were received, carefully reviewed, and addressed. As a result, the Forest Supervisor issued a decision on the revised proposal.

The Winter Fire, approximately 34,000 acres, consumed or damaged vegetation including trees already extremely dry due to abnormally high and extended temperatures. This, along with the steep slopes combined with erratic wind patterns common to that area, resulted in a high intensity fire event. The burned area was the result of a lightning storm that swept across south central Oregon.

Following the fire, the Forest Service proposed to salvage fire-killed trees and perform wildlife habitat and stand rehabilitation within the fire's perimeter through Ponderosa pine planting.

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This project is within the Lakeview Federal Sustained Yield Unit and was developed to incorporate the stewardship goals of the unit. The Lakeview Stewardship Group, an informal collaborative partnership, monitored the development of this project to insure that the stewardship goals would be met. The group includes representatives from Collins Pine Companies, The Wilderness Society, Sustainable Northwest, Lake County Resources Initiative, Defenders of Wildlife, and Concerned Friends of the Winema.

A complete description of all project activities may be found at:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/winema/management>. For further information, contact Bill Aney, Paisley District Ranger at PO Box 67, Paisley, Oregon 97636 or by calling 541-943-3114.

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