



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

G-2

For the meeting of: April 15, 2014

Date: April 8, 2014
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Ryan Sundberg
Subject: Six Rivers National Forest Update on Projects.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors hear the presentation and take appropriate action, if required.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor, Tyrone Kelly will update the Board of Supervisors on the Simms Reforestation Project and numerous other Six Rivers National Forest Projects of importance to the region.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

REVIEW: Auditor County Counsel Personnel Risk Manager Other

TYPE OF ITEM: Consent, Departmental, Public Hearing, XX Other Board Initiated (20 min)

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Upon motion of Supervisor Seconded by Supervisor
Ayes, Nays, Abstain, Absent

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.
Meeting of:

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.
Dated: April 15, 2014
By: Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

*Per the Order of the Chair.

**Sims Fire Restoration Business Plan
for Fiscal Years 2014-2017 on the
Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity
National Forests**

Introduction:

The Sims Fire started approximately 7 miles northwest of Hyampom, CA on July 27, 2004 from a tree striking a Pacific Gas & Electric transmission line. The fire burned a total of 4,030 acres across two National Forests and private land. Four structures were destroyed by the Sims fire. From a vegetation perspective the Sims fire was severe with nearly half (48%) of the area burning at high severity and an additional 21% burning at moderate severity. The impacts to soils are somewhat different with just over half of the area (56%) categorized as low severity or unchanged (Table 1).

Table 1. Comparison of Soil and Vegetation burn severity for the 2004 Sims Fire.

<i>Severity</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Unchanged</i>
<i>Soil Burn Severity 2004</i>	14%	29%	19%	37%
<i>Vegetation Burn Severity 2005</i>	48%	21%	24%	7%

Land Management

Within the Sims fire area land management designations from the Six Rivers National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1995) include General Forest, Partial Retention, Special Habitat Late-Successional Reserve, and Riparian Reserve. The burned area is within a key watershed. In addition to the management designations listed above, the Six Rivers portion of the entire planning area also contains Managed Habitat, Recreational River, Retention, Scenic River, Special Interest Areas, Special Habitat (Eagle, Falcon, and OG12), and Wild River.

Nearly the entire Shasta-Trinity portion of the fire area is part of the South Fork Mountain Management Area with the remainder in the Hayfork Creek Management Area. Land allocations within the burned area include Adaptive Management Area, Administratively Withdrawn, and Riparian Reserve. Prescriptions include Limited Motorized Recreation, Roded Recreation, and Commercial Wood Products Emphasis. There is a small portion of Wild and Scenic River designation along the South Fork Trinity River.

Fire Restoration Strategy Document

The Sims Fire Restoration Strategy was a joint effort between the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests. A draft of this document was submitted to the Ecosystem Management Staff at the Regional Office for review on April 1, 2014.

Vegetation

Vegetation in the Sims fire area is very diverse. Douglas-fir and mixed conifer forests are the most common vegetation types. Detailed information on the past, present, and desired vegetation conditions within the Sims Fire footprint and surrounding area can be found in the Sims Fire Restoration Strategy:

Capacity Building

Restoration Program Management & Staffing Plan:

For the strategy, the Forests have been working jointly by providing members for a full interdisciplinary team. As the Forests move further into planning and implementation, a combination of contracts, agreements, community involvement and forest staff will be used to ensure obligation of all remaining funds for restoration.

Environmental Compliance:

The Forests are prioritizing project proposals to complete the NEPA planning to ensure timely obligation of restoration funds. The Forests plan to use a combination of forest staff, Enterprise team resources, and IDIQ contracts to complete necessary environmental compliance documentation.

Financial Plan:

Regional Forester's expectations regarding ...implementation of Ecological Restoration activities funded through Fire Cost Recovery Settlement funds.

1. Fire restoration activities are to be implemented in an aggressive and timely manner. I expect 100% of current settlement funds to be obligated within three years. Any new settlements will have all monies obligated within three years of receipt of settlement funds. In order to meet the three-year objective, Forests are asked to look for additional work that can be initiated in FY2014;
2. Forest Supervisors are responsible for maintaining contact with local officials about how their Forest is proceeding with Fire Restoration tied to settlements;
3. Fire restoration activities are to be implemented in partnership with local partners and communities whenever possible to assist in maintaining the economic vitality of local communities and retention of local forest worker skills and infrastructure;
4. In order to expand capacity and maintain a positive work environment, we will emphasize implementation through local partnerships.

Both forests have requested funding for, and submitted contracts to, complete road maintenance and upgrades in this fiscal year. Implementation of landline maintenance and weed mitigation activities will also be added to FY14. Additional planning and implementation will commence in

FY15, with the majority of restoration work planned for FY15 and FY16. Any remaining implementation and monitoring will be funded in FY17.

Forest	Settlement Funds	Funds Remaining	Additional Work in FY14	% Spent by end of FY14	% Anticipated in FY15	% Anticipated in FY16	% Anticipated in FY17
Six Rivers	\$4,433,469	\$3,553,235	\$100,000	22%	40%	25%	13%
Shasta-Trinity	\$6,500,203	\$5,196,654	\$150,000	22%	40%	25%	13%

Restoration Activity Implementation:

The Forests put forth 19 project proposals in the Sims Fire Restoration Strategy for funding consideration. Proposals include, but are not limited to, plantation thinning and release, reforestation, road maintenance, stream crossing upgrades, invasive species management, landline maintenance, riparian enhancement and fuelbreaks. The cost to fund all of these proposals exceeds the remaining funds. Forest Supervisors from both Forests are prioritizing the project proposals using criteria that include, but are not limited to the following: consistency with 16 USC 579c, NEPA complexity, ecological benefits, community benefits, and likelihood of success.

Local Community Interaction:

Fire restoration has been discussed at local Fire Safe Council meetings. The Forests have an agreement in place with The Watershed Research and Training Center to facilitate public involvement and assist with strategy development. The Forests are also currently developing an agreement with Trinity County Resource Conservation District to implement road maintenance and road decommissioning work. The Forests will continue to look for opportunities to engage local communities.

Monitoring:

A combination of research to support and inform ecological restoration and management activities, and project-specific implementation monitoring has been proposed in the Sims Strategy. The Restoration, Monitoring, and Research Proposals section of the Strategy outlines implementation and effectiveness monitoring for each proposed project. Monitoring will happen in concert with or immediately following implementation, dependent upon the nature of the restoration activity being implemented.

Additional Information or Resource Needs:

The Forests anticipate the need to use contracts and agreements for planning and implementation work in order to expand capacity needed to meet the expedited 3-year timeframe for obligation of Fire Restoration funds.

Barriers to Meeting Expectations:

Large fires on the Forest(s) could delay some activities because many of the employees that would be directly or indirectly involved in fire settlement planning and implementation would also have a role in supporting fire suppression efforts. The Forests will work closely with our regulatory agencies to manage consultation workload.