

Lassen National Forest Amendment to the Canyon Complex (Pitt Fire) WFSA

July 1, 2008

The following information is supplemental which identifies key contacts and resource issues specific to the Lassen National Forest. Specific maps and details for resource protection will be provided by the Resource Advisor on the Almanor Ranger District.

1. Name of Incident: Canyon Complex (Pitt Fire and others within and adjacent to the Lassen National Forest)

Size: Possibly up to 40,000 acres of the Lassen National Forest.

2. Name and location of current IC: Robert Lewin for the Canyon Complex and Pitt Fire.

Leadership Directory	Name	Work phone	Home phone	Cell phone
Forest Supervisor	Kathleen Morse	252-6600	760-709-1445	814-706-6702
Incident Business Advisor				
Forest FMO	Lorene Guffey	252-6630	257-9327	310-3507
Deputy FMO	Christi Whitcome	252-6631	257-2860	310-3503
Public Affairs Officer	Heidi Perry	252-6604	251-4662	310-3504
BAER Contact	Andrew Briebart	252-6456		
Telecom	Brent Baxter	257-0285	257-2298	919-1672
Telecom	Stan Strizhevsky	257-0285	257-2481	310-3535
Financial Ops Contact	Judy Maddox	252-6629	253-1236	260-9219
Acquisition Contact	Don Tinsley	252-6407	251-0445	310-3590
SIFC Manager	Darla Nearing	252-6632	251-5664	310-3566
Expanded Disp Supervisor	Darla Nearing	252-6632	251-5664	310-3566
District Ranger	Al Vazquez	258-2141	257-7973	249-0006
Acting District FMO	John Bristrow	252-5180	257-4364	310-3551
Asst. District FMO	Scott Dixon	258-5130	257-3840	310-0325
Primary Resource Advisor	Jane Goodwin	258-5169	258-3509	816-0939
Alt. Resource Advisor	Mark Williams	258-5166	284-7959	
Primary Agency Administrator Representative	Alfred Vazquez	258-5110	257-7973	246-0006
Alternate Agency Administrator Representative	Jeff Withroe	257-2151	257-2916	251-6014

Other District Resources available for support on the fire are:

Scott Dixon – Forest Liason @ ICP to enhance communication between the ICP and the Forest (530) 310-3526.

Bob Grate – Field Observer working for the Resource Advisor (530) 310-1152

Jim Rust – Field Observer working for the Resource Advisor.

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Land allocations

Philbrook Lake Area:

- Philbrook Campground (public) operated by PG&E, contact information (Jim Clawson, PGE 894-4756)
- 50+ summer cabins, occupied May-October under lease from PG&E, contact Jim Clawson (PGE), 894-4756, or Nick Repanich (Philbrook Cabin Owners Association, 899-2645)
- Carr Mine: private property, mining operation, unknown contact information

High Lakes

- Lotts Lake: Private property with cabins, contact info Tony and Kathryn D' Ambrosio 805-526-6031 or David Hume 530-283-3114, or 530-249-1568
- Morris Lake: Cabin, owner info unknown
- Henrys Flat: Cabin associated with a range permit

LRMP management areas 45, 46, 47

- RARE II allocation covers most of the High Lakes,
- Soda Creek RNA,
- Chips RARE II
- Pacific Crest Trail
- Management areas have identified SPM (semi-primitive motorized), and SPNM (semi primitive non-motorized)
- High lakes OHV Area, (developed OHV trails)

Resource concerns:

- Sensitive plant locations 3 identified:
- Along Poison Springs OHV trail, 2 occurrences; Leket #1 and Metr #46, (see map)
- Green Island Lake TES plants 2 occurrences; Metr#37, and Bomo #13 (see map)
- Philbrook Lake 6 occurrences; Metr #36 (1), and Botrychium (5)

Archaeology:

- Significant historical and pre-historical sites exist within the area and locations are mapped and available for use.

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- Mountain Yellow-legged frogs; suitable habitat in lake within the High Lakes OHV area; Oliver Lake, Murphy Lake, Mud Lake, and Chips Lake. Helicopter dipping operations should be avoided in these waters. If necessary to dip from these lakes due to personnel safety or operational limitations, ensure that all bucket work is implemented in the middle of the water body to reduce the risk of damage to this resource. Prior to dipping implementation notify the resource advisor.
- Using portable pumps in any of the above listed water bodies is prohibited.

Wildlife:

- PAC's within the area, however if equipment stays on developed roads and OHV trails no concerns

Soils: Are granitic in nature and prone to erosion. Firelines constructed with dozers will require proper drainage prior to demobilization.



KATHLEEN S. MORSE
Forest Supervisor
Lassen National Forest



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

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File Code: 1920-4-1

Date: November 28, 2007

Route To:

Subject: Roadless Area Management Direction

To: Forest Supervisors and Directors

Fire - p. 2

This letter is to clarify the current status of roadless area management. I also want to emphasize my continued commitment to working cooperatively with the State of California Resources Agency for any proposed projects in inventoried roadless areas to ensure mutually acceptable protections are established. In Region 5 we are committed to protecting the important environmental values contained in the 4.4 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in California. Please go to <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/> to find the links to the court documents and 2001 Roadless Rule referenced in this letter.

On February 6, 2007, the United States District Court for Northern California issued a final injunction stemming from its September 20, 2006 decision in the consolidated cases California v. USDA and Wilderness Society v. USFS. A summary of this injunction is as follows; please see the web reference above to view the full text:

- Use the 2001 Roadless Rule - The State Petitions Rule, adopted at 70 Fed. Reg. 25,654, 25,661-62 (May 13, 2005), is set aside, and the Roadless Rule, adopted at 66 Fed. Reg. 3,244, 3,272-73 (January 12, 2001), has been reinstated and made effective by the California district court ruling.
- Management Actions Must Meet the 2001 Roadless Rule - The court ordered that "Federal defendants are enjoined from taking any further action contrary to the Roadless Rule without first remedying the legal violations identified in the Court's opinion of September 20, 2006. Such further actions by the Forest Service include, but are not limited to, approving or authorizing any management activities in inventoried roadless areas that would be prohibited by the 2001 Roadless Rule, and issuing or awarding leases or contracts for projects in inventoried roadless areas that would be prohibited by the 2001 Roadless Rule. The effective date of this injunction is September 20, 2006."
- Oil and Gas Leases - The court also directed that the "2001 Roadless Rule shall apply to all activities and any step of the leasing process commenced after the May 13, 2005, unlawful repeal of the Roadless Rule on any and all mineral leases of National Forest lands that issued after January 12, 2001." As of the date of this letter, there have been no oil and gas leases issued in Region 5 after January 12, 2001. Please contact Rich Teixeira, Regional Minerals and Geology Group Leader, at (707) 562-8965, for any questions regarding oil and gas leasing.



Interim Directive No. 1920-2006-1 expired on July 16, 2007, and the Washington Office has no current plans to renew this interim directive. This interim directive continued the reservation of authorities and exceptions that have been applicable for the past several years.

Instead, the agency is operating under the district court's order directing reinstatement of the 2001 Roadless Rule (36 CFR Part 294, <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>) which means that:

- A road may not be constructed or reconstructed in inventoried roadless areas except as provided in paragraph (b) of section 294.12. These exceptions include road construction/reconstruction needed for public health and safety (flood, fire, catastrophic events); roads needed pursuant to outstanding rights/statute/treaty; prevention of resource damage, etc. Refer to 294.12(b) for a complete listing of exceptions.
- Timber may not be cut, sold, or removed in inventoried roadless areas except as provided in paragraph (b) of section 294.13. The cutting, sale, or removal of timber for the exceptions listed is expected to be infrequent. Examples of these exception include cutting, sale or removal of timber to improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat, to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects...., for roadless areas that have been substantially roaded timber may be cut, sold, or removed only in the substantially altered portion or the inventoried roadless area. Refer to 294.13(b) for a complete listing of exceptions.

At this time, authorizing projects or issuing or awarding contracts, permits or leases may only be done where the activity is consistent with the 2001 Rule. Forest Plan management provisions that do not conflict with the prohibitions of the 2001 Roadless Rule remain in effect. The IRA boundaries and prohibitions used and established by the 2001 Rule may not be changed through project decisions or through land management plan amendments or revisions (294.14(e)). Because some of these boundaries date back as far as the old RARE II inventories and may be obsolete, at some future time, the Chief may decide to update the IRA boundaries to more accurately reflect current conditions and to better fit identifiable boundaries. Any future changes to the boundaries will be conducted in an open process with public input.

The IRAs for Region 5 are available at the following site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/rsi/clearinghouse/gis-download.shtml#r5>

Look for "R5_InventRoadlessAreas07_1" in the first column.

Also, a color map can be viewed on the roadless website:

<http://roadless.fs.fed.us/states/ca/state3.shtml>

On the map key you will see a category titled "Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is allowed." These were for analysis purposes only. These were the areas that land management plans had made decisions that would have allowed road construction or reconstruction. But the 2001 Roadless Rule overrides these earlier decisions. And then at 294.14(e) it is clear that no more changes can be made to override the 2001 Rule. It states "the prohibitions and restrictions established in this subpart are not subject to

reconsideration, revision, or rescission in subsequent project decisions or land and resource management plan amendments or revisions undertaken pursuant to 36 CFR part 219."

The authority to make final decisions for projects affecting roadless character in inventoried roadless areas rests with the appropriate responsible official for the project. This will normally be a District Ranger or Forest Supervisor.

Working with the State of California Resources Agency - Prior to beginning the public scoping process for any proposed projects in IRAs, and before making key NEPA decisions, R5 Forest Service representatives will meet with the State of California Resources Agency to review and confer whether Forest Service proposals are consistent with the 2001 Roadless Rule and to work out any concerns. Responsible officials are to notify Christine Nota (Regional Forester's Assistant for working with State government, at (916) 498-5901, cnota@fs.fed.us and Kathy Clement, Ecosystem Planning Staff Director, at (707) 562-8957, kclement@fs.fed.us) of any projects being planned in inventoried roadless areas. If we cannot reach consensus at the staff level, I will offer to meet with the State of California Resources Secretary personally (or arrange for mutually agreed to representatives) to resolve outstanding issues and to ensure consistency with the 2001 Roadless Rule.

In addition to these measures, I am affirming the goal of no net increase in miles of roads in inventoried roadless areas within each national forest in California (from letter dated April 4, 2006, file code 1900, from Regional Forester Bernard Weingardt to California Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman). I expect the use of exceptions in 294.12(b) and 294.13(b) to be infrequent. But as agreed to in the afore-mentioned letter, these exceptions should be used in a thoughtful, common sense-based approach to provide access for Native American Tribes to widely acknowledged sacred sites as allowed by treaty and/or on classified roads, meet legitimate public safety objectives, be managed for recreation use as determined through the travel management process, and allow for reasonable emergency fire fighting efforts. Roads that cannot be managed to mitigate sedimentation in sensitive watersheds should be removed or corrected for sedimentation problems in a cost effective manner.

Implementation of the travel management rule (36 CFR 212) will affect motorized use of IRAs by restricting all motorized vehicles to designated routes. Only roads and trails that are part of a national forest transportation system (NFS) can be designated for motorized vehicle use. Many IRAs contain unauthorized routes that were created through motorized cross country travel and are not part of the NFS. In some cases, after considering site-specific environmental impacts and public concerns, an unauthorized route could be considered for addition to the NFS as a NFS motorized trail. Decisions to convert unauthorized routes to NFS motorized trails within IRAs must be given thoughtful consideration, including analysis of the potential impacts on roadless area characteristics.

There are approximately 260,000 acres of National Forest IRAs in California managed by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest of Region 4 and the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest of Region 6. I have conferred with the Regional Foresters of Region 4 and Region 6 and they are in agreement and will manage these lands in accordance with the measures outlined in this letter.

Roadless Area Management Direction

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For questions regarding roadless area management, please contact Kathy Clement, Ecosystem Planning Staff Director, at (707) 562-8957, or Brad Burmark, Regional Planner, at (707) 562-8950.

/s/ Beth G. Pendleton (for)

RANDY MOORE

Regional Forester

cc: Kathy Clement

Christine Nota

Bradley J Burmark

Rich Teixeira

Bill Supulski

Jeffrey Vail

Marlene Finley