



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Portland District

PUBLIC NOTICE

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Lost Creek Project
Fire Protection (Fuels Reduction)
Jackson County, Oregon**

CENWP-PM-E-09-04

Issue Date: January 5, 2009

Expiration Date: February 5, 2009

30 Day Notice

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (Corps) intends to implement fire protection (fuels reduction) measures on 86 acres of land in the vicinity of the Corps' Lost Creek Project office and facilities. The proposed project is located in a rural area of Jackson County, Oregon (Township 33S, Range 1E, Sections 26, 27, 34, and 35) between the towns of Shady Cove and Prospect. The nearest larger city is Medford, located about 25 miles to the south. All areas slated for fuels reduction are upland, non-riparian forested and non-forested lands. At the project site, decades of fire exclusion has resulted in denser brush fields, over-crowded forest stands, and diversion from natural species composition and age class. This unnatural state has resulted in conditions that pose an increased vulnerability to damaging agents such as stand-replacing wildfire and insect and disease infestation.

The desire to implement fuels reduction measures stems from concerns over the condition of forest lands surrounding the Corps' Lost Creek Project office and associated facilities, and the Corps' ability to protect those facilities. Without reduction of fuels, the potential for fire damage to Corps' facilities will remain high.

The Corps intends to cut small-diameter live and dead standing woody vegetation and downed woody vegetation in the spring, pile it, and burn the piles in the fall or winter. Vernal pools and cultural resources on-site will be protected. Work will be done by crews using chainsaws and all vehicles will remain on existing roads. Care will be taken to avoid introduction of weed seeds into the site. Only portions of the 86 acres will be treated in any particular year, as funding allows. Work will begin in areas deemed to be most at risk of catastrophic fire and progress over time to areas of lesser risk.

Environmental Document: The draft Environmental Assessment is available on the Corps website at https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/en_plan_assess.asp.

Additional Information and Comments: Questions or comments regarding the draft EA should be directed to Mr. Steve Helm, Environmental Resources Branch, telephone (503) 808-4778, steve.r.helm@usace.army.mil, or to the address below. Mailed comments on this notice must be postmarked by the above expiration date and sent to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland
Attn: CENWP-PM-E/Steve Helm
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title and date.
Should no response be received by the above closing date, a "no comment" response will be assumed.