

County Contract No.

TRINITY COUNTY

Board Item Request Form

Subsequent 1

Department
Board of Supervisors

Meeting Date : Jul 23, 2013

Contact:

Judy Morris

Phone:

623-1217

Requested Agenda Location:

Requested Action:

I move to discuss and/or take action on authorizing the Chairman to sign a letter to Shasta-Trinity National Forest Acting District Ranger regarding the Environmental Assessment for the Stafford Fire Salvage and Restoration Project and find that the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the agenda being posted. The need for urgency is that comments are due by July 27, 2013.

Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter to Shasta-Trinity National Forest Acting District Ranger regarding the Environmental Assessment for the Stafford Fire Salvage and Restoration Project.

Fiscal Impact:

No fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Suzie White

Email:

suwhite@trinitycounty.org

Special Instructions to the Clerk:

Reset Form

Print Form

Board members attached you will find proposed board comments in response to the Environmental Assessment for the Stafford Fire Salvage and Restoration Project.

Also, attached are comments from the advisory group, The Trinity County Collaborative who discussed this subject in length on Friday, July 19th. Their letter will be submitted separately from the board but also I thought it would be helpful for the board to have as a reference on the subject.

The proposed board comment does include issues raised in the collaborative this past Friday.

Sincerely,
Supervisor Judy Morris

Trinity County Collaborative Group
c/o Alex Cousins, facilitator
Trinity County Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1450, Weaverville, CA 96093

July 23, 2013

Tom Hall, Acting District Ranger
SFMU, Shasta-Trinity National Forests
P.O. Box 159
Hayfork, CA 96041

RE: Stafford Fire Salvage and Restoration Project

Dear Mr Hall,

We've been asked to convey the comments of the Trinity County Collaborative Group on the Stafford Fire Salvage and Restoration Project Environmental Assessment. The Collaborative Group exists to work with federal agencies in developing broadly-supported land management and economic development initiatives, and to advise the Trinity County Board of Supervisors on such topics. Participants in the Collaborative Group are Trinity County citizens with a wide range of perspectives and experiences.

The Collaborative Group supports the Proposed Action described in the Environmental Assessment as Alternative 1. Please note, however, that Group participants are concerned about the Forests' imperfect record on timely implementation of projects, and about the Forests' historical failure to perform necessary follow-up work, particularly in plantations. Statements such as "These activities are anticipated to occur within the next 5 years" and "It is recommended that this area be monitored every 3-7 years..." tend to stimulate rather than alleviate this concern, because they seem to lack conviction and commitment. To increase the likelihood that the Stafford project will prove satisfactory, and to build support for local Forest Service management more generally, we ask that the decision for the Stafford project feature a strong explicit commitment from the Forest Service that the initial and follow-up activities will be accomplished on time and as described.

The Environmental Assessment is unclear about the amount of large wood that would remain after initial project implementation. The section describing Alternative 1 says in several places that "Coarse woody debris will be reduced to 10 tons per acre" and on page 8 that a mosaic of fuel loading would be created "that does not exceed 10 tons per acre". The section on environmental consequences and the specialist's fuels report say that 10-20 tons per acre of coarse woody debris would remain after initial treatments. Given the importance of large wood in forest processes, and the consensus that 20 tons per acre of large wood is acceptable from a fire management standpoint (both acknowledged in Stafford documents and references), we recommend that 10-20 tons per acre be the adopted standard.

Thanks for considering our comments on what we hope will be a successful project.

Clarence Rose

Richard Seel

Arnold Whitridge

For the Trinity County Collaborative Group



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

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July 23, 2013

Stafford Fire Salvage and Restoration Project
Attn: Tom Hall, Shasta-Trinity National Forest
PO Box 159
Hayfork, CA 96041

Dear Mr. Hall,

RE: Stafford Fire Salvage and Restoration Project

The Trinity County Board of Supervisors supports the Proposed Action described in the Environmental Assessment as Alternative 1 – Salvage and Restoration.

Also, the Board's advisory group, known as Trinity County Collaborative Group has developed some additional concerns that the Board of Supervisors supports as additions to our previous comments. Please see items below.

To ensure a successful project we would ask that the Forest Service proceed with a strong commitment to the time line and follow-up activities as described.

There also seems to be some confusion on the subject of the amount of large wood that would remain after the initial project implementation. In the EA document it states levels ranging from 10-20 tons per acre. Given the consensus derived from the collaborative, 20 tons per acre of large wood is acceptable from a fire management perspective. The Trinity County Board of Supervisors supports that 10-20 tons per acre be the adopted practice.

Sincerely,

Debra Chapman, Chairman
Trinity County Board of Supervisors

JUDY PFLUEGER
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

KARL FISHER
DISTRICT 3

DEBRA CHAPMAN
DISTRICT 4

JOHN FENLEY
DISTRICT 5