



Oakland Motorcycle Club, Inc.

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Re: Comments on Proposed Mill Fire Salvage and Hazard Tree Removal Project. (PMFSHTRP)

The Oakland Motorcycle Club, a 105 year old organization, has regularly recreated in the Grindstone District for over 70 years. We have successfully completed the 47th annual Jackhammer Enduro held at Fouts Springs and routinely spend many weekends recreating along the trails in preparation for this event and for overall outdoor enjoyment of the area. As Individuals and as an Organization we are long time Stakeholders in this OHV area.

There is a concern that the Preliminary Project Information, Proposed Mill Fire Salvage and Hazard Tree Project does not address, value, or protect the OHV trail system within the burn area and the border of the burn. This OHV trails system is an asset that the USFS has developed and maintained with large amounts of California Start OHV funds. With those funds, USFS, and volunteers have invested countless hours in these trails. The OHV Trail System must be protected. That protection must be addressed in any proposed or final project document.

As viewed from the perimeter and on volunteer work parties, the trail system is mostly intact. The fire can not destroy dirt trails. The trails are the only thing that looks the same as before the fire. The trails that were use by machines to fight the fire have been disturbed but with proper work on those trails and no use this winter they should recover by spring 2013.

In the PMFSHTRP, there is mention of the many OHV trails in the area, that many people camp and use the trail system, and safe public access is needed. Also it states to "Manage to provide roaded natural recreation opportunities". Not sure what that means, but the OHV trails are not all roads. Many of the trails are 4 foot wide or less. In the "Desired Conditions" section, the management emphasis is on timber production, resource objectives including, visual quality, watershed, rare and endemic species, and wildlife. These thing are all good emphasis for all of the USFS lands, but the PMFSHTRP is specific to a OHV recreation area. The management emphasis must include the OHV resource specifically.

Several years ago the work on the Trough Springs Shaded Fire Break along the ridge of M5 addressed protection of the OHV trails #20 and #22 and others. It required that there be minimum damage done to the trails. (Logs removed and dragged across at right angles to the trails.) Trails damaged to be repaired. Action like this should be included in the Proposed Actions.

The PMFSHTRP is affecting an OHV area within the Mendocino Forest. It is not just "normal" forest land. Any complete proposed project must specifically address protection of ALL assets within the area, including the OHV trail system.

The Stonyford OHV Area is recognized as one of the best and most popular sites in the state. The PMFSHTRP should emphasize minimizing the disruption of the OHV trail system in order to facilitate the opening of trails as soon as feasibly possible.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

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President of the OMC

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