

Old Berry THP

Executive Summary of the Proposed Timber Harvest Plan



Old Berry Timber Harvest Plan (THP) is a 294 acre proposed project of single tree selection within the Berry Gulch and Thompson Gulch tributaries. This proposed project incorporates three different silvicultural prescriptions, wildlife demonstrations and fuels treatments. The goals of the project are to 1) promote redwood regeneration through stump sprouts, 2) enhance late seral forest characteristics beneficial to wildlife, 3) maintain and improve forest health and fire resiliency, 4) quickly reopen the project area to recreational users after harvest, and 5) minimize disturbance to Mendocino Woodlands State Park.

The proposed project utilizes single tree selection under the Matrix (the part of the Forest that has not been given any specific management goal), the Older Forest Development Area (OFDA), and Late Seral Development Area (LSD). The Matrix area is lacking seedlings and understory vegetation, so selectively thinning the stand to let light hit the forest floor will promote stump sprouts and improve forest health conditions. OFDA and LSD are aimed at producing structural characteristics of older forests, which include large trees, snags, down logs, multiple canopy layers, and widely spaced trees while growing and producing timber through harvests. Both methods have longer periods between harvests (~20 years to 25 years). The difference between LSD and OFDA is that LSD's goal is to create and 'old growth' forest quicker than if left 'to nature', while OFDA allows for the periodic harvest of a few larger trees. OFDA's management technique is demonstrating the retention for aesthetics and habitat elements that are often valued by small private landowners.

The demonstrations within the proposed project include the silviculture discussed above along with a bird species survey to determine how bird populations are affected by harvesting activities. This proposed project has a known Sudden Oak Death (SOD) infestation, but JDSF's Best Management Practices (BMPs) are in place to ensure the disease is not spread. Old Berry is proposing a prescribed burn and other fuels management treatments, including but not limited to, mastication, lopping and scattering, and chipping to ensure fire resiliency.

JDSF recognizes the recreational value to this area and has taken steps to minimize recreational disturbance. The roads utilized as trails (JDSF Road 552, 730, and 740) will be closed for up to 2 years during active operations. JDSF is working to ensure closures do not coincide with other trail closures on the Forest. There will be a 1,000-foot noise buffer along the Mendocino Woodlands State Park boundary where harvest operations will be restricted during peak season summer use. Road 730 will be kept open for emergency access only during active operations.