

Extension of Public Review

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is releasing the Draft Vegetation Treatment Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (VTPEIR) for public review and comment. The dates of review are December 3, 2013 to January 25, 2013. However, due to public requests the final date for receipt of comments has been **extended to February 25, 2013**. There are no scheduled public hearings for public discussion of the VTPEIR. The document and references will be available for review at the office of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection located at 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1506-14, Sacramento, California 95814. The document is also available on the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection website. The Contact Person for the VTPEIR is Mr. George Gentry, Executive Officer State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. His phone number is (916) 653-8007. Written comments should be submitted to this e-mail address.

http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_vtpeir/

A brief description of the project is as follows. CAL FIRE implements vegetation treatments through various programs, including: the current Vegetation Management Program (VMP), CAL FIRE's Prefire Management Initiative, Proposition 40 Fuels Reduction Program, and the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) (BOF, 1996). Individual projects are carried out with agreements between the State and the landowners. Projects may occur on all non-federal wildlands unless other state or local law prohibits such activity. The purpose of the vegetation treatments is primarily for reduction of risk of damage from wildfire. However many other goals including but not limited to wildlife habitat improvement, range improvement, forest health or control of invasive species may be set as the project objective.

After Landscape Constraints, Minimum Management Requirements, and Mitigations are applied, no significant impacts are anticipated to occur. Initial scoping for the VTPEIR identified potential significant impacts to wildlife habitats, air quality, limited areas of water quality, and possible cumulative effects if acres treated are not constrained. Each proposed project is subjected to an environmental review that includes CEQA identified trustee and responsible agencies. If this review confirms that the project will be within the scope of the project, it may proceed. However, if the project is not within the scope of the VTPEIR or the potential for significant impacts remain, further CEQA review must be conducted.