

Independence Fuels Thinning and Forest Health Restoration Project

Project Definitions and Terminology:

1. **DBH:** Diameter Breast Height, the diameter of a tree bole/trunk, taken at 4.5 feet above ground level, measured in inches.
2. **Residual/Leave/Crop Trees:** Planted or natural conifers planned to become a component of the future forest, normally dominant and co-dominant trees. A residual/crop tree is determined by both spacing (approximately 20' x 20') and are of the best growth and vigor, largest live crown ratio, straightest boles and are free of damage.
3. **Slash/Woody Material:** The residue left on the ground after thinning or accumulating as a result of natural or other activities.
4. **Reproduction Thickets:** Areas where numerous seedling (small/young) trees are growing, nearly carpeting the area. These seedlings are generally less than 2.5 inches DBH, and less than 6 feet tall.
5. **Competing Vegetation:** Refers to any of several woody shrubs with broad leaves that are potential competitors for established crop trees.
6. **Damaged Trees:** Any injury or damage caused by the contractor's performance of work exposing the cambium (i.e. the bole, cut limbs in the upper 50% of the tree, cut tops). Residual/crop trees, which are uprooted, are also considered damaged trees.
7. **Canopy Drip Line:** The area defined by the outermost circumference of a tree canopy where water drips from and onto the ground.
8. **Control area (CA):** A point or area identified within the treatment unit with unique or specific treatment flagging. Special restrictions and protections will typically apply.
9. **Limited Operating Period (LOP):** Restricted operating dates due to wildlife (example: Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Bald Eagle) or recreation requirements.
10. **Large Down Woody Material (LWD):** logs, or large pieces that when more or less aggregated approximate a log; that are a minimum of 10 feet in length and 20 inches in diameter or larger on the small end, shall be retained, regardless of its state of decomposition. This includes logs that were once contiguous but are now broken into pieces. If the pieces add up to 20 feet or more, then treat the log as one continuous piece.
11. **Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA's):** Streamside management areas where operations may be restricted to provide for protection of aquatic resources and water

quality. Width of RHCA may be 100 to 150 feet (ephemeral and intermittent stream courses), up to 300 feet wide (perennial stream courses), as measured from apparent high watermark or edge of riparian vegetation; on either side of the stream channel.

- 12. Project Activity Level (PAL):** U.S. Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region (R5) fire precautionary system governing industrial operations associated with timber sales, stewardship and service contracts. This six level system will be used to govern operations under this contract during the fire precautionary period (See Fire Plan in Section J). Weather data from the Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS): Tahoe N.F. Eastside Group will be used to calculate and predict the daily Project Activity Levels. Based on historical weather data from this weather station group, the expected number of days for each PAL level (during the Fire Precautionary period) is shown in the table below:

Project Activity Level Climatology								
Station/SIG/Unit:	TNF Eastside Group				Years Analyzed		1979 - 2008	
	A	B	C	D	Ev	E	Days	
Month	Expected Days per Month at each PAL Value						Days	Analyzed
May	5.6	8.4	11.8	3.9	1.4	0.0	683	31
June	4.1	7.3	12.9	4.3	1.6	0.0	881	30
July	0.7	2.7	13.4	8.1	5.8	0.2	896	31
August	0.7	1.9	10.1	8.9	8.3	1.2	902	31
September	2.0	3.0	11.6	7.1	5.6	0.5	866	30
October	4.7	6.6	12.6	5.1	2.0	0.0	775	31
November	10.3	9.8	9.0	0.8	0.1	0.0	607	30
	28.0	39.6	81.4	38.2	24.8	1.9	5610	

- 13. Variance:** Written agreement to allow for operations restricted by the predicted PAL level to continue with implementation with additional fire precautionary measures by the Contractor. Using the PAL Variance Checklist as a guide, variances may be granted for individual work units or a grouping of units; after consideration of fuel conditions, fire suppression resource response time, additional fire precautionary measures, and other specific site conditions, etc. Contractor and Forest Service may agree to a variance for operations restricted under PAL levels B, C, D, and Ev. No variances are allowed to for operations restricted under PAL level E. Variances may be unilaterally modified or terminated by the Forest Service as circumstances warrant.
- 14. Fire Patrol Person:** Contractor employee - When required, the sole responsibility of the fire patrol person shall be to patrol the operation for prevention, detection, and reporting of fires, and to take suppression action where necessary, in accordance with the requirements of the Fire Plan in Section J.

15. **Berms/equipment tracks**: Disturbance to the litter, duff and soil as a result of equipment moving across the landscape. Berms depth in restrictions is generally concerning the depth of the actual soil disturbance present.