

FY 1999-2004

**FIRST
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
UPDATE**

for the

**HERGER-FEINSTEIN
QUINCY LIBRARY GROUP
FOREST RECOVERY ACT**

**LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST
PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST
SIERRAVILLE RANGER DISTRICT, TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION (R5)
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

JANUARY 28, 2002

Planning Premise

This plan update describes accomplishments for Fiscal Years 1999 through 2001 and identifies analysis areas where vegetation treatments are being considered and/or planned within the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act (HFQLG FRA) Pilot Project area. This plan update reflects the objectives identified in Alternative #2 of the HFQLG FRA Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS, 1999) as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) Record of Decision Signed by Regional Forester Brad Powell in January of 2001. Treatment prescriptions used in planning Defensive Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ), Group Selection (GS), and Individual Tree Selection (ITS) activities reflect the alternate management strategy provided by the SNFPA for the maintenance of the California Spotted Owl and the adaptive management strategy initiated by SNFPA to study the affects of activities authorized by the HFQLG Forest Recovery Act.

Some previously designated analysis areas have expanded or contracted as planning progressed on a site-specific basis in response the changes in management direction from the new Decisions described above. New project names will be linked to original analysis areas and tracked by identifying said project to the original Implementation Plan Year.

As indicated in the original Implementation Plan, this Plan Update is a working document that would be refined through time and would be adjusted for new information, congressional budget allocations, and/or a change in direction from regional planning initiatives like the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment process mentioned above

The accomplishment FY 2000 and 2001 projects resulted from an expenditure of \$7.2 million and \$28.8 million, which approximates 23 percent and 93 percent of full funding. Projects planned in FY 2002 reflect a budget allocation of \$26.2 million. The budgets for FY 2004 through 2004 reflect a budget expectation of full funding. Outputs for the current year would be revised should the current budget allocation change.

Under Alternative #2 and assuming full funding, the five-year Pilot Project expected to annually construct 40,000 to 60,000 acres of Defensive Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZ); 8700 acres of Group Selection (GS) harvest treatments; and implement watershed/riparian restoration projects. The original plan displayed the Pilot Project Area divided into 31 smaller sub-networks. These sub-networks are prioritized to complete the highest priority Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ) sub networks first. This would enable an independent scientific panel to review and report on whether, and to what extent, implementation of the Pilot Project under the HFQLG FRA achieved the goals stated in the Quincy Library Group Community Stability Proposal. The goals for the Community Stability Proposal include improved ecological health and community stability.

The approval of the SNFPA Rod authorized the planning, execution, and study of an Administrative Study developed to study the affects of Group Selection, DFPZ, and ITS treatments on California Spotted Owl populations. For this purpose, a total of eleven treatment areas were designated on four districts to be used to delineate treatments, set priorities and to

track the affects of these treatments over time. Some revision of the priorities has had to occur to the 31 sub-networks mentioned above.

Assumptions for Estimated Acre and Volume Levels:

- ❑ Pilot Project would be fully funded for the remaining term of the project
- ❑ Vegetation treatments are planned using the alternate strategy authorized by the SNFPA Record of Decision.
- ❑ Volume estimates are included for the primary goals: DFPZ and GS treatments
- ❑ Individual Tree Selection (ITS) treatment acres and volumes are estimated and included.
- ❑ Volume estimates were determined using District and Forest experience without actual measurements
- ❑ Watershed Restoration Projects would be included as projects are identified and or funded
- ❑ Prescribed fire treatments would be included as projects are identified from completed vegetation treatments.
- ❑ Group Selection treatments are authorized under the SNFPA Rod to include up to 5000 acres of non owl habitat in projects that could be planned by September 30, 2001 and awarded by February 12, 2002; and up to 4000 acres per year (totaling no more than 12000 acres for the term of the HFQLG Project) in selected Administrative Study areas (in CA owl habitat) within the Pilot Project Area.