

The Bureau of Land Management, Butte Falls Resource Area (BLM) is beginning planning on a forest management project in the Butte Falls area. The Twin Ranch Forest Management Project is being considered around Twincheria and Rancheria roads about five miles north and east of the town of Butte Falls. The proposed project is located in sections 21, 27, 29, 33, 34, and 35, Township 34 South, Range 3 East and sections 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, and 15, Township 35 South, Range 3 East.

The BLM is proposing this project in order to provide a sustainable supply of timber and forest products from BLM lands that are available for timber harvest, while also maintaining a healthy forest ecosystem. The Twin Ranch project would include timber harvest on about 1,100 acres and pine plantation thinning on 900 acres. The stands being considered for harvest in the Butte Falls area are overstocked and contain more trees than the sites can sustain. Overstocked stands have a greater potential for severe, stand-replacing wildfire and a higher susceptibility to insects or disease. The proposed timber harvest would reduce fuel hazards and improve the growth and vigor of the selected forest stands using a combination of silviculture prescriptions such as regeneration harvest, selection harvest, commercial thinning, thinning in riparian areas, and thinning in ponderosa pine plantations. Timber harvest would be accomplished through one or more commercial timber sales. Slash produced from the timber harvest activities would be reduced through underburning, piling and burning, or through removal for use as biomass.

The BLM is interested in hearing any comments or concerns you might have that would help shape or further develop the Twin Ranch Forest Management Project. Your comments will be most useful if they are received by January 15, 2007; however, we will accept and review any comments up to the time we make a decision on the project in summer 2007.

For more information concerning the Twin Ranch Forest Management Project, you may contact Jean Williams at (541) 618-2385 or John Bergin at (541) 618-2265. Please send your written comments to Bureau of Land Management, Butte Falls Resource Area Planning, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504.

Congratulations to Ray Macy. He won the Butte Falls Fire Department 50/50 raffle on Santa Night. Ray and Mary are such great supporters of our fire department that Ray donated all the money back to us! Thank You!! BFVFD.

