

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Sierra National Forest



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOREST SERVICE INVITES PUBLIC TO A FIELDTRIP FOR THE SUGAR PINE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

North Fork “The Bass Lake Ranger District has scheduled a public fieldtrip for the Sugar Pine Adaptive Management Project, **Saturday, September 29, 2007**, with the goal of acquainting those interested with the proposed project's vegetative treatments and processes," said Bass Lake District Ranger David Martin. “The project area lies east of Highway 41 and west of Nelder Grove Historic Area, and south of Fish Camp, surrounding the community of Sugar Pine.”

The fieldtrip will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Forest Service Batterson Workstation, **43060 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA, 93644**, just across from the entrance to Sky Ranch Road and is scheduled to return to Batterson around 2:00 p.m. The group will travel to several forest areas in and around Sugar Pine, Nelder Grove, and Cedar Valley, stopping to view and discuss proposed vegetative treatments. **Participants need to R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, September 26th** to the Bass Lake Ranger District Team Leader Mark Lemon, 559-877-2218 ext. 3110 or District Fuels Specialist Denise Tolmie, at ext. 3207. Those attending the fieldtrip need to bring a lunch and dress appropriately for outdoor forest environment.

“Proposed treatments are being designed to create a defensible space adjacent to concentrations

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of homes to improve the ability to suppress and control wildland fire as well as improve the health and vigor of overcrowded stands of coniferous trees,” said Martin. "This project has also been selected as one of two projects in the Sierra Nevada region to test the effectiveness of the vegetation treatments outlined in the 2004 Sierra Nevada Framework decision. The Forest Service will be planning and implementing this project as we have on past projects, except the University of California, serving as an independent science team, will be monitoring and studying the effects of the project on four important categories: wildlife (specifically the Pacific fisher), fire and forest health, water quality and quantity and public participation. This is a unique opportunity to get valuable feedback on our forest management activities to make sure we are doing the right thing for the resources in the long run."

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