

January
19, 2009

Our Forest Protection Program is excited to share with all of you our accomplishments in 2008 defending public forests, rivers and wildlife, of Northern California and Southern Oregon.

This summer over 400,000 acres burned in Northern California. We are seeing fire "salvage" proposals for 2009 from the Klamath, Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests (NF). Perhaps, our greatest victory in **2008 stopped the Klamath NF from "salvage" logging 360 acres** of old growth forest stands on steep, unstable hillsides in the Independence and Little Grieder Creek watersheds. Both burned in 2007 and are salmon bearing tributaries to the Klamath River.

A court victory in June brought protection for multiple species, including goshawk and the red-breasted nuthatch, on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest (NF) Pilgrim Timber Sale. The federal judge held that the forest must consider actual population data and not solely rely on habitat. This decision **halted a 3,000 acre project that proposed over 200 acres of clear cutting.** If the forest decides to continue to move forward with this project it will now have to consider effects to species populations.

Much of our Forest Watch Program work this year was participating in planning the **Orleans Community Fire Reduction Project (OCFR)** on the Six River NF, on the Orleans Ranger District. OCFR is a 3,000 acre project under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). For years KFA has met with local watershed and fire safe councils, the Karuk Tribe, timber industry, local citizens and the FS to come up with a plan that would protect the community from wildfire danger and enhance the Panamnik World Renewal Ceremonial District- culturally significant to the Karuk Tribe. KFA took the lead organizing local organizations and the tribe through the objection/resolution process. After heated debate in the field, we were able to **gain protection of 114 acres of old growth forest.**

The OCFR resolution also brought forth a stable Orleans Community Group that is dedicated to working with the forest and the tribe on a long term stewardship plan that would include restoration and promote native cultural management. The agreement also mandated an effectiveness and implementation monitoring plan and persuaded the District to develop a Memorandum of Understanding in order to define the collaborative process.

On the Klamath National Forest, Salmon/Scott River Ranger District, the **Deep HFRA project** was considerably altered. KFA with allies were able to get multiple old growth units dropped, clearcutting dropped and the entire sale was **remarked to protect dozens of old growth trees** that were previously marked for extraction.

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As with the Deep project and seven other small projects on the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District KFA is working with the FS on **monitoring and restoration**. This includes photo points, soils and water quality monitoring and restoration post timber sale activity such as planting native trees and grass seed. A majority of these small projects are in "plantations" (old clear cuts) and are authentic fuels reduction projects near communities. KFA was able to **protect stream courses and goshawk habitat** by going out in the field with project planners and discussing and buffering creek boundaries and designating more "leave" trees.

The Klamath NF, Happy Camp Ranger District has been busy planning. The **Thom Sieder HFRA** project area is over 30,000 acres with over 2,000 acres of timber extraction. We have attended meetings, field trips and written comments. With allies we were able to influence the **Oak Flat** timber sale by having multiple "temporary" roads dropped. Our Forest Program is also collaborating on monitoring the **Phase II** Timber Sale, currently being logged in Happy Camp.

Another large "fuels reduction" project in the planning stage is the **Eddy Gulch Late Successional Reserve HFRA** project, on the Salmon River, Klamath NF. The planning area is over 130,000 acres with over 2,000 of commercial thinning. As with the Thom Sieder project, we have attended meetings, field trips, written comments and plan to continue working closely with the district to ensure protection of old growth and threatened species.

KFA led interested parties in organizing comments for the **Modoc herbicide plan**, which includes thousands of acres of toxic chemical application to control noxious weeds.

Current lawsuits include; working with Western Environmental Law Center in **protecting rare Survey and Manage species** delineated in the Northwest Forest Plan, working with Earthjustice to advocate the importance of **Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl** and **Saving the Medicine Lake Highlands from geothermal drilling.** Possible future litigation includes Western Energy Corridors and fire "salvage" and herbicides on the Modoc NF.

All four California Pacific Northwest National Forests are designating Off Highway Vehicle routes. KFA has commented and ground-truthed multiple routes are working with the Forest Service to delineate the most appropriate routes outside of Late Sucessional Reserves, Key watersheds and Roadless areas.

While these are highlights of our work it is not a complete list. KFA participates in FS planning and policy on many levels. We regularly meet with forest supervisors and staff and collaborate with communities, local watershed councils and the Karuk Tribe. Extensive time is done traveling to remote and rugged timber sale areas, to meetings and to conferences (Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, Western Stewardship Summit, Future Forests ect.). We track and read environmental analysis, specialist reports (fisheries, fuels, wildlife, soils ect.) and pertinent scientific studies to provide the agencies with detailed and timely comments. Our Forest Program participates in the Northwest Forest Campaign, which works on NF policy and connects multiple

conservation organizations across the region and in Washington D.C. KFA provides a link between regions, watersheds, government agencies, native tribes and rural people.



OCFR Objection Resolution Meeting



Deep Project Old Growth Saved





Happy Camp “Salvage” Old Growth Saved



OCFR Old Growth Saved



One of 500 Miles of 2008 Fires Ridgetop Dozer Lines



Panther Fire Old Growth in Danger