

Silver City

Volunteer Fire Department

Robert Thompson
District Ranger, Mystic Ranger District
Pactola Project Area
8221 S. Hwy 16
Rapid City, SD 57702

10 September, 2010

SUBJECT: Pactola Project Area – Scoping Comments

On behalf of the Silver City VFD, we would appreciate your serious consideration of the following additions to the Pactola Project Area (see attached map with areas and reference numbers for locations):

1. Expand the commercial thin or removal cut to the northwest side of FS Rd 141.2A to the south of Silver City. This would reduce active MPB infestation spread and complete the fire protection buffer on the southwest side of Silver City. (Note – the Pactola Project map has 141.2A in the wrong drainage. Refer to the old travel management map for the correct location in the next small drainage fork to the east.)
2. Gorman Gulch drainage (FS Rd 141.2B) commercial thin or removal cut to reduce MPB infestation spread, reduce fuels and increase fire protection to the northwest of Silver City.
3. West side of lower Sunnyside Gulch drainage (FS Rd 671) commercial thin or removal cut to reduce fuels and increase fire protection to the north of Silver City.
4. Area known as “Cat Draw” (FS Rd 251.1K) commercial thin or removal cut to reduce fuels and increase fire protection to the southeast of Silver City.
5. Lower Jenny Gulch (along Silver City Rd / FS Rd 141) and the accessible terrain in the side valleys and the top of the ridge complex to the east side of Jenny Gulch (accessed by FS Rd 141.1D and 141.1H) removal cut or commercial thin to reduce MPB infestation spread, reduce fuels and increase fire protection. This area has an abundance of large Ponderosa pine that are mature and ready for harvest.
6. Middle Nugget Gulch (FS Rd 675.1) expand hardwood and/or meadow treatments. Also recommend reopening the connection to West Nugget Gulch (FS Rd 249), at the north end of Middle Nugget, for fire protection access.

Thank-you for your assistance. If you have any questions concerning our recommendations, please contact me. Our department will gladly assist in showing your staff these areas.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sugrue

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