

Get Involved

The purpose of scoping activities is to obtain comments on the proposed project. Members of the public and interested organizations are encouraged to provide comments on the full spectrum of issues and concerns that should be addressed in the Draft IS/EA; to assist with defining a suitable range of alternatives; to advise on the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts; and to suggest possible protection measures that could reduce project impacts.

You are invited to attend the open house format public meetings:

August 22: 6 PM to 8 PM

Crescent Fire Protection District
Building Assembly Room
255 West Washington Boulevard
Crescent City, CA 95531

August 23: 6 PM to 8 PM

Arcata Community Center
Arts and Crafts Room
321 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway
Arcata, CA 95521

If you cannot attend, we still want to hear from you. Comments can be submitted online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/GreaterMillCreek> or mailed to the following address by September 7, 2018:

National Park Service
South Operations Center
ATTN: Leonel Arguello
P.O. Box 7
Orick, CA 95555

It is our practice to make all comments, including names and addresses of respondents, available for public review. If you would like us to withhold your name and address from disclosure, please state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. If you use the website, check the box “keep my contact information private.” We will honor your request, but please be aware that we may still be required to disclose names and addresses under federal law.

Don't forget: public meetings are scheduled for August 22 and 23, 2018.

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
South Operations Center
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Project Information and Schedule

Under the umbrella of Redwoods Rising, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) and National Park Service (NPS) are beginning the planning process to continue restoration efforts in the Greater Mill Creek (GMC) area through vegetation management, aquatic restoration, and road removal activities. CDPR and NPS are preparing a joint Initial Study/ Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) to fulfill the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act, respectively. As part of this planning effort, the effects of restoration activities on cultural resources will also be assessed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Public Resources Code 5024. The agencies are holding two public meetings for the project in August 2018.

The GMC Ecosystem Restoration Project (Proposed Action) is located within Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP), primarily in Del Norte Coast Redwood State Park (DNCRSP), with a portion in Redwood National Park. Over 27,000 acres of forest within DNCRSP were commercially logged through 2000. These stands consist of unnaturally dense young forests where progression towards late-seral habitat is hindered, species diversity has been reduced, and the spread of invasive exotic plants threatens to alter vegetation communities. Unmaintained logging roads, skid trails, and stream crossings have eroded since construction, leading to fill material entering nearby stream channels and stream crossing failure. Past commercial logging has degraded aquatic habitat and resulted in a lack of large wood in the project area, which is important for habitat function.

IS/EA Milestones

August/September 2018

Public and agency scoping

Early 2019

Release of Draft IS/EA

Summer 2019

Issuance of decision documents

Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the GMC area and restore ecosystem processes that have been degraded by historical land use activities. Rehabilitation would be accomplished through reducing stand density and shifting species composition to promote growth of remaining trees and understory vegetation and development of multi-story canopy; reintroducing fire as an ecological process; maintaining sensitive plant communities; managing invasive plant species and pathogens; reducing erosion and sedimentation into streams; restoring in-stream habitat complexity; and managing vegetation within riparian corridors.

These actions are needed to build resiliency through accelerating development of forest characteristics more typical of late-seral forests, reducing fire hazards and chronic sediment inputs to creeks, and enhancing habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species.

Preliminary Alternatives

NPS and CDPR plan to evaluate a No Action Alternative as well as the Proposed Action in the IS/EA. Under the No Action Alternative, large-scale ecosystem restoration activities would not be undertaken.

The Proposed Action calls for vegetation management, aquatic restoration, and road removal activities over 30,350 acres within the GMC area beginning in late 2019. Vegetation management actions would include forest restoration through thinning; prescribed fire (i.e., controlled burning); snag creation; crown manipulation; tree planting; manual and mechanical vegetation removal; flaming/torching; mowing/solarization/covering; girdling; and fuels reduction. Abandoned logging roads and related road infrastructure that threaten aquatic resources would be removed and open roads would be retained and maintained. Temporary roads may need to be constructed to access restoration areas and would be removed as soon as possible after treatment. Proposed aquatic restoration would include placement of large wood in streams to enhance habitat and stream function.

