

APPENDIX D

Second Implementation Plan Update for the

HERGER-FEINSTEIN QUINCY LIBRARY GROUP PILOT PROJECT

JANUARY 2003

FY 1999 to FY2006

**Second Implementation Plan Update
for the**

**HERGER FEINSTEIN QUINCY LIBRARY GROUP
PILOT PROJECT**

Lassen National Forest
Plumas National Forest
Sierraville Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest
Pacific Southwest Region (R5)
USDA Forest Service

JANUARY 2003

Planning Premise

This plan update describes accomplishments for Fiscal Years 1999 through 2002 and identifies analysis areas where vegetation treatments are being considered and/or planned within the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group (HFQLG) Forest Recovery Act (the Act) Pilot Project area. This plan update reflects the objectives identified in Alternative #2 of the HFQLG Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS, 1999) as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) Record of Decision Signed by Regional Forester Brad Powell in January of 2001. Treatment prescriptions used in planning Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ), Group Selection (GS), and Individual Tree Selection (ITS) activities reflect the alternate management strategy provided by the SNFPA for the maintenance of the California Spotted Owl and the adaptive management strategy (Administrative Study) initiated by SNFPA to study the effects of activities authorized by the HFQLG Forest Recovery Act on the California Spotted Owl.

The size of some previously designated analysis areas has increased or decreased as planning progressed on a site-specific basis in response to the changes in management direction. New project names will be linked to original analysis areas and tracked by the original Implementation Plan Year.

As indicated in the original Implementation Plan, this Plan Update is a working document that will be refined through time and adjusted for new information, congressional budget allocations, and/or changes in direction from regional planning initiatives like the SNFPA process mentioned above.

The accomplishment of FY 2000, 2001, and 2002 projects resulted from expenditures of \$7.2 million, \$28.8 million, and \$21.5 million that approximates 23 percent, 93 percent, and 69 percent of full funding. The budget allocation for FY 2003 is \$26.2 million. The Program of Work for fiscal years 2004 through 2006 reflect a continuation of funding at the same levels as FY01 through FY03. Outputs for the current year may be revised should the current budget allocation change.

Under Alternative #2 of the HFQLG EIS, and assuming full funding (\$31 million), the five-year Pilot Project is expected to annually construct 40,000 to 60,000 acres of DFPZs, 8700 acres of Group Selection (GS) harvest treatments, and implement watershed/riparian restoration projects. The original implementation plan displayed the Pilot Project Area divided into 31 smaller sub-networks. These sub-networks were prioritized so that the highest priority DFPZs could be completed first.

Approval of the SNFPA Record of Decision (ROD) authorized the planning and execution of an Administrative Study (the Study) to examine the effects of GS, DFPZ, and ITS treatments on California Spotted Owl habitats and populations. For this purpose, a total of eleven treatment areas were designated within the Pilot Project to be used to delineate the Study treatments, set priorities, and track the effects of these treatments over time. Planning the Study resulted in changes to the original Implementation Plan's prioritization.

The Administrative Study design was peer reviewed in 2001 and subsequently revised. The revised Study's project development took most of the 2002 field season. Consequently, no HFQLG projects were accomplished in the Study area in FY 2002.

A Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Review Team was convened in January 2002 by Regional Forester Jack Blackwell to review the feasibility of the SNFPA ROD. Review Team findings are due to the Regional Forester in February 2003.

Assumptions for Estimated Acre and Volume Levels:

Vegetation treatments are planned using the alternate strategy authorized by the SNFPA Record of Decision.

Volume estimates are included for DFPZ, GS, and ITS treatments.

Volume estimates were determined using District and Forest experience, without actual measurements.

Prescribed fire treatments are identified from completed vegetation treatments.

Group Selection treatments were authorized under the SNFPA Rod to include up to 5,000 acres outside the Study of non-owl habitat in projects that could be planned by September 30, 2001 and awarded by February 12, 2002; and up to 4,000 acres of California spotted owl habitat per year within the Study area.