



Sierra Pacific Industries

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Sierra Pacific Industries to Work with Neighbors, Government Agencies, and Researchers to Restore Area Burned by Ponderosa Fire

Anderson, CA – Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) announced today that it has embarked on an intensive effort to restore the forests that burned in the Ponderosa fire. Included in this effort are plans to substantially reduce soil erosion, replant a diversity of tree species, initiate extensive monitoring of water quality and habitat, and repair roads and other structures damaged in the fire. The company will work closely with state agencies, university scientists, and local landowners to assure that the ecosystem is healed over time.

“We will make significant investments to stabilize the soil to reduce the potential for erosion caused by the fire” said SPI Vice President for Resources Dan Tomascheski. “SPI will plant approximately five million trees to get the new forest started – a process that will take up to three years to complete.” “Further, we will make sure culverts are free-flowing and will break up the impervious soil surface left by the heat of the fire outside of stream buffer zones to help the soil absorb water” he added. At the same time, SPI’s biologists will conduct wildlife surveys and identify trees and snags to be left for habitat for species that are likely to re-inhabit the area. Sierra Pacific has engaged a top scientist from Colorado State University to help design the erosion impacts study and better understand and quantify the benefits of these practices through monitoring” he added.

In addition to harvesting its own burned timber, the company is deferring harvest of unburned timber and will be able to purchase burned logs from other private landowners impacted by the fire. “Along with other mills in the area, we’ll make every effort to purchase as much burned timber as we can feasibly store to avoid decay and loss of value” Tomascheski said. “We are pleased that SPI is aggressively pursuing restoration of the burned lands” said Chuck Clegg, a resident of the Shingletown area and neighboring landowner to SPI. “By working with SPI we will restore our lands and begin a new forest as soon as possible” he continued.

During the Ponderosa Fire SPI's foresters and others worked cooperatively with neighbors and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) to suppress the fire while it was raging. "SPI representatives were an asset in providing detailed topographic information and other intelligence that aided firefighters in their planning efforts" said Scott Lindgren, Branch Director on the Ponderosa Fire. Lindgren added "SPI's harvest units dramatically reduced the spread of the fire and served as strategic locations for our crews to take a stand against the blaze." "Areas where harvest had occurred were clean - slash was chipped and did not present control problems." He went on to say "Firefighters used virtually every pre-existing SPI road in the fire area, either as containment lines or contingency lines." "Also, the presence of roads minimized the amount of new dozer line needed, and their landings served as critical safety islands for our personnel."

The Ponderosa fire burned over 27,000 acres of mostly forest land east of Redding, California in August. Some 133 structures burned, including 52 homes. In addition, numerous landowners lost their private forests to the fire. Sierra Pacific Industries lost over 17,000 acres – the greatest loss the company has ever experienced in a single wildfire event.

Sierra Pacific will close its lands in the Ponderosa fire and other major fire areas to general public access and hunting until further notice for the safety of the public and for those who are working in the salvage effort.

Sierra Pacific Industries is a third-generation family-owned forest products company based in Anderson, California. The firm owns and manages nearly 1.9 million acres of timberland in California and Washington, and is the second largest lumber producer in the United States. Sierra Pacific Industries is committed to managing its lands in a responsible and sustainable manner to protect the environment while providing quality wood products and renewable power for consumers.

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