

EYERLY FIRE, DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST, OREGON: PROCESS HURTLES PREVENT RECOVERY AND REFORESTATION

July 2002: Eyerly Fire burned 17, 871 acres of federal land on the Deschutes National Forest

December 2003: Comments sought on DEIS for recovery project. Took over one year to develop DEIS because of agencies concern with “bullet proofing” documents to prevent appeal/litigation.

August 2004: Record of Decision signed for recovery project. Project is granted “emergency status” and exempt from appeal.

September 2004: Forest Service removes project from “emergency status” because there were no bids on the project.

"It's two-plus years old, it's blue-buggy, the sap is shot and it's just uneconomical," said Dan Bishop, timber lands manager for Prairie Wood products in Prairie City.

January 19, 2005: Lawsuit filed by several groups again the Eyerly sale.

January 28, 2005: Forest Service repackages Eyerly fire sale again but receives no bids.

"This is probably it as far as any salvage sales can be made with the increased deterioration taking place," District Ranger Bill Anthony said. "Actual salvage must occur by this June or July to avoid extensive loss of value."

September 2005: Very little action (see photo below taken September 2005) and dead trees have lost almost all value. It will take years for the forest to come back on its own.

