



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Stanislaus National Forest  
Calaveras Ranger District

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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** March 28, 2017

**Subject:** Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration Project, Scoping Document  
**To:** SOPA Respondents and Other Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies

Dear Interested Party:

The Calaveras Ranger District on the Stanislaus National Forest is initiating scoping for the **Arnold-Avery Healthy Forest Restoration (HFR) Project**. The proposed project is located within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) near the communities of Arnold and Avery in Calaveras County, on the Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest (Sec 13, 25, 36, T5N R14E; Sec 7, 8, 11-15, 17-21, 24, 27-30, T5N R15E; Sec 18, T5N R16E; Sec 1, 12-14, 23, 24, T4N R14E; Sec 18, T4N R15E). Refer to scoping package for a map of the project area.

The Arnold-Avery HFR project is being proposed to address the recent tree mortality and continued forest health risk around the communities of Arnold and Avery. The primary purpose of the Arnold-Avery HFR project is to:

- 1) Improve the project area's resilience to current and future large-scale disturbances (drought, bark beetle outbreaks, high intensity wildfire);
- 2) Reestablish a healthy and resilient mixed-conifer forest around the communities of Arnold and Avery; and
- 3) To provide for public and firefighter safety.

The Stanislaus National Forest is proposing multiple treatments in order to achieve desired conditions. Up to 3,000 acres of mixed-conifer forest is proposed for treatment. Proposed treatments will include mechanical thinning, salvage of dead trees, biomass removal, prescribed burning, mastication, fuelbreak construction and maintenance, and hand and mechanical fuels work.

The actions proposed in the Arnold-Avery HFR project fall into a category that may be excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as long as analysis determines that no extraordinary circumstances [36 CFR 220.6(b)] exist: Insect and Disease Infestation [Sections 602 and 603 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-148; 16 U.S.C. 6591b)]. I expect to complete and sign a Decision Memo by July 15, 2018.

You are receiving this notice either because you expressed a specific interest in this project, or because I believe you may be directly or indirectly affected by this project. Additionally, the intent of the Forest in scoping this project is to engage in a transparent and inclusive



collaborative planning process that includes multiple interested persons representing diverse interests [Section 603(b) of HFRA (16 U.S.C. 6591b)]. As such, we request that you review the scoping package and share either your suggestions or endorsement of the actions.

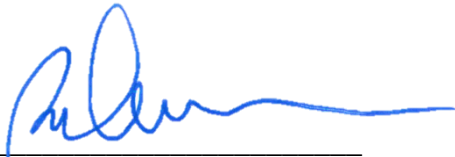
A scoping package that provides information related to the proposed action, the scoping process and how to submit comments is available online at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53093>; or at the Calaveras Ranger District; 5519 Highway 4; Hathaway Pines, CA 95233.

For additional information regarding this project, please contact Alaina Osimowicz at the Calaveras Ranger District; or call 209-813-6040 or email [aosimowicz@fs.fed.us](mailto:aosimowicz@fs.fed.us).

Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process.

Sincerely,



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RAY CABLAYAN  
District Ranger  
Calaveras Ranger District  
Stanislaus National Forest