



United States Department of Agriculture

# Baseball Wildlife Habitat Improvement, Protection & Fuels Reduction project Mendocino National Forest Covelo Ranger District



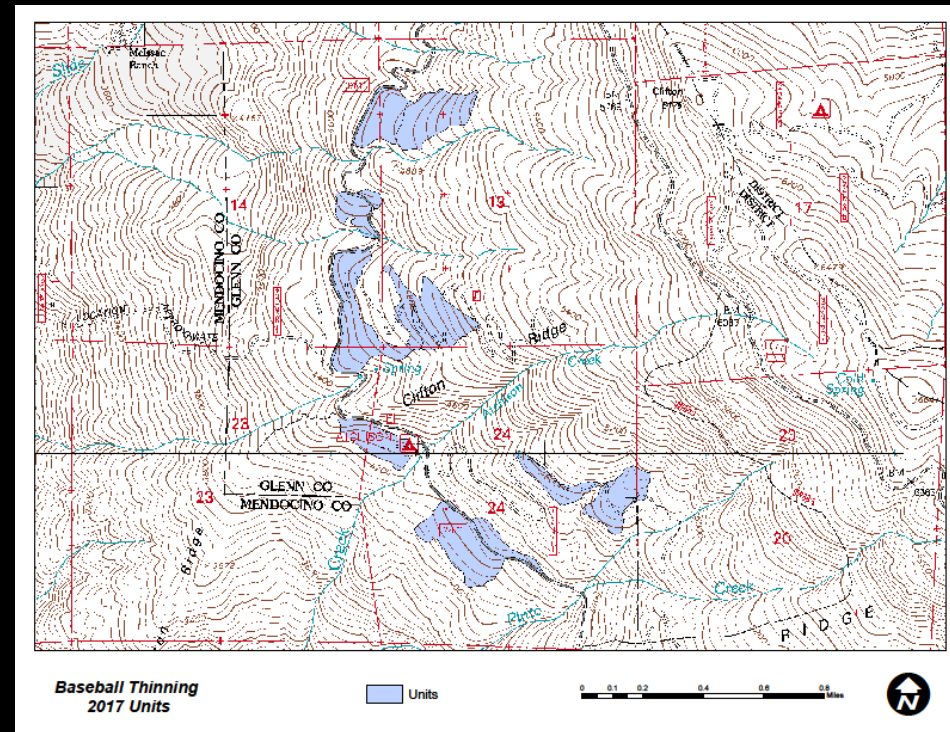
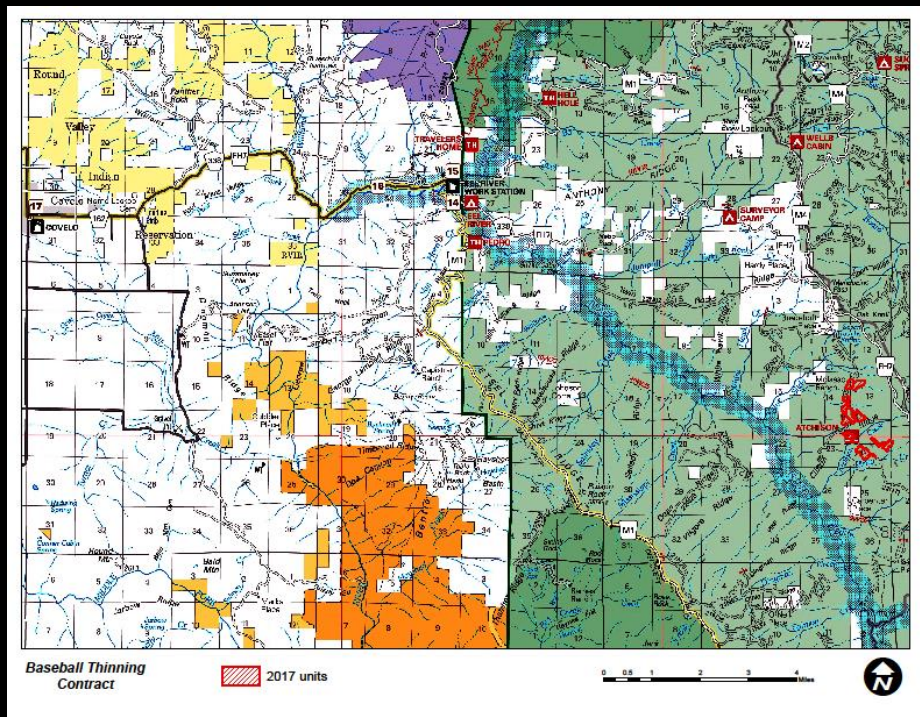
Forest Service

October 2018

In partnership with the Mendocino  
County Blacktail Association and  
the Mule Deer Foundation



# Baseball Thinning Project





# Baseball Thinning Project

- Long term partnership: discussions, field visits, office meetings
- Early 2016: Mendocino Blacktail Association (MCBA) & Mendocino National Forest (MNF) partner in a grant submittal to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- November 2016: MNF receives \$85,000 grant towards project from MCBA
- November 2016: MNF receives \$10,000 grant award towards project from the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) – California chapter (Vacaville and Santa Rosa)
- Fall 2016-Spring 2017: MNF fuels staff lay out units, put collections agreements in place for the grants and work on contract writing







# Baseball Thinning Project

- July 2017: Contract awarded and work starts in October
- Winter-Spring 2017: wet weather and snow cause stop in work and LOP's do not allow work to begin until after July 10
- July 2017: thinning contract resumes
- August 2018 thinning completed ahead of the November 2018 deadline.







# Baseball Thinning Project

## Overview:

The Mendocino County Blacktail Association (MCBA) and the Mendocino National Forest (MNF) began a partnership to improve wildlife habitat on the Mendocino National Forest. After many years of building this partnership through field trips and meetings, beginning in early 2016, MCBA and MNF submitted a grant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). In November of 2016, the grant was awarded for the Baseball thinning project in Covelo, CA. The project is near Atchinson Campground, a popular area on the Forest for deer hunting. A grant application was also submitted to the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) who generously awarded \$10,000 towards the project. on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Following this, the Baseball project, being high in elevation, was under snow for the winter and spring months.





# Baseball Thinning Project

During this time, MCBA, MDF and MNF worked on a collections agreement for each respective grant. MNF fuels personnel laid out contract units and started writing contracts in preparation for putting the work out to bid. In spring of 2017, the Baseball Mastication project was put out for bids to contractors and awarded at a cost lower than originally estimated. This resulted in 170 acres of thinning being accomplished instead of the 100 acres initially expected and proposed in the grant proposal to CDFW and MDF. Work started during the summer of 2017 after LOP's were lifted. Once work started the contractor was on site until rain and snow put them out of operations for the winter. At that time they had completed approximately half of the work. In July of 2018, work commenced, and work was completed before the end of August 2018. MNF personnel accepted the contractor's final work.





# Baseball Thinning Project

Before thinning

After thinning







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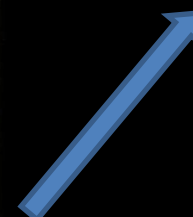
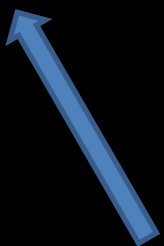




# Baseball Thinning Project



Treated on left side of road.  
Untreated on right side of road.

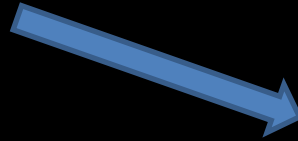




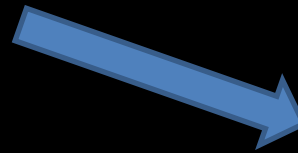


# Baseball Thinning Project

Treated



Untreated







# Baseball Thinning Project



Unit 7- dense manzanita



After thinning







# Baseball Thinning Project



Treated area to the right and untreated dense manzanita to the left.

Left side is an example of what area to the right looked like before treatment.







# Baseball Thinning Project



Treated area in foreground  
untreated dense area in  
background.

Prior to treatment,  
foreground looked like  
background.







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# Baseball Thinning Project



Signs of deer eating oak re-sprout



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# Baseball Thinning Project

Date/Time: 11/02/2018 11:00 AM  
Position: +039°45.95'N 122°55.49'W  
Altitude: 4963ft  
Datum: WGS-84  
Azimuth/Bearing: 032°N33°E 1582mils (miles)  
Elevation Angle: +11.4°  
Horizon Angle: +01.3°  
Zoom: 1X

Clumps of white oak post treatment







# Baseball Thinning Project

Oak snag (right) & Large Woody Debris (left)



Date & Time: Fri Oct 27 12:50:34 PDT 2017  
Position: +039.4595 / -122.5513  
Altitude: 5071 ft  
Datum: WGS-84  
Azimuth/Bearing: 177.503 E / 314.7 m/s (true)  
Elevation Angle: +76.5  
Horizon Angle: +85.1  
Zoom: 1X







# Baseball Thinning Project

## Large Woody Debris







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Behind Atchinson  
Campground



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White oak stand post  
treatment







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Oak stand post treatment



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# Baseball Thinning Project

Oak stand post treatment



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Deer in treated unit







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