SCOPING NOTICE
USDA FOREST SERVICE
Bitterroot National Forest, Darby-Sula Ranger District
Ravalli County, Montana

The Darby-Sula Ranger District is asking for your comments on a proposed project called the Tolan Firewood Sale. The proposed project would encompass approximately 85 acres along the Tolan Road (FS 5740 road) and Hilltop Road (FS 13343 road). Harvest activity would be confined to within 150 feet of each side of the road, and only remove dead and/or dying trees. There would be no new road construction associated with this project, and no equipment will be permitted off of the Forest road. Proposed units are in T1N &1S, R18W, Sections 16, 20, 21, and 28; Principal Meridian.

Harvest within these stands would remove dead and/or dying trees affected by insects and/or disease while providing wood products to the residents of Ravalli county. Resulting slash would be lopped and scattered within each harvest area. The Ranger District hopes to accomplish this work in the summer of 2021.

The Darby-Sula Ranger District has made a preliminary assessment for the project and has determined that the proposal falls within categories of action that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This assessment found that no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude the use of the following category: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(13): salvage of dead and/or dying trees.

The scoping period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses and email addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection.

How to Comment:

Comments should be submitted to:

Eric Winthers, District Ranger
Darby Ranger District,
PO Box 388,
Darby, MT 59829
or emailed to: comments-northern-bitterroot-darby@usda.gov, subject line "Tolan Firewood Sale"
If you would like further information about this project, please contact Ryan Hughes at the Darby Ranger District (406) 210-0869.

Sincerely,

Eric Winthers,
District Ranger