



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Idaho Panhandle  
National Forest

Coeur d'Alene River  
Ranger District

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## Hungry Caribou Fuel Reduction Project Areas

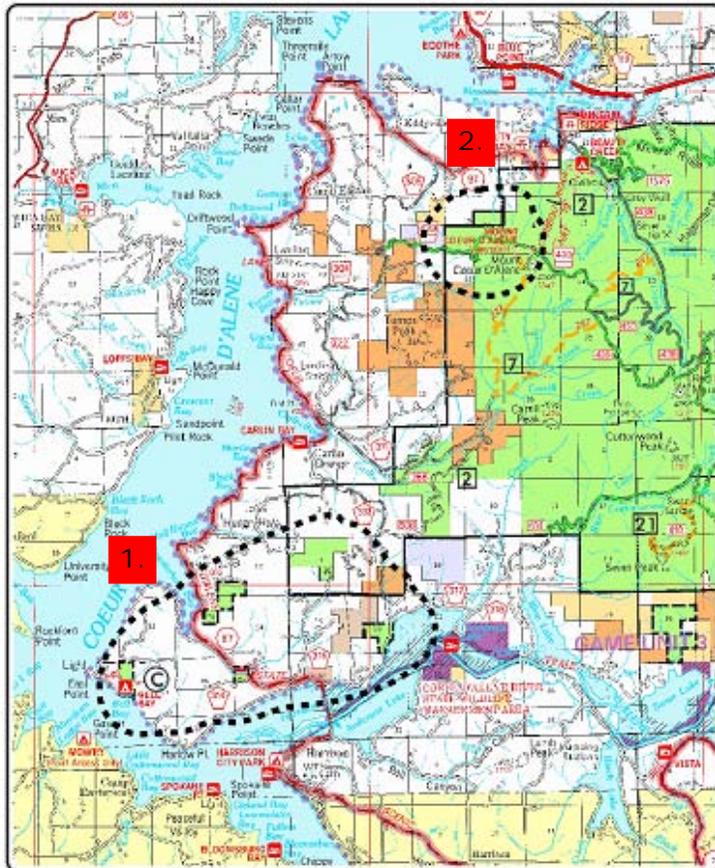


Figure 1: Map of proposed area.

Hello and welcome to the Hungry Caribou Fuel Reduction Project!

The Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests is proposing management activities in two main areas of consideration. The first section of the project area includes several small parcels of land (varying from 40 to 300 acres) on the south end of Coeur d'Alene Lake near Hungry Hollow (See Figure 1, Area #1). The second main focus area will be in the area of Coeur d'Alene Mountain where several pieces of private property border Forest Service land (See Figure 1, Area #2).

In the area near Hungry Hollow, parcels of federal land are surrounded by private land. Some of these parcels are in close proximity to densely populated lakefront communities. In the area of Coeur d'Alene Mountain, there are several structures that border federal land. Private landowners have requested fuel reduction work to be done on federal land.

In both areas of consideration, the goal of this project will be to reduce the risks of an

uncontrolled wildfire if one were to occur in the area. Both areas are in the midst of a zone where structures and other human development intermingle with wild forested land and create a wildland-urban interface. If a wildfire were to occur on Forest land, the current conditions in this area would make it likely that the fire would spread to private land. The potential also exists that a fire originating on private land could spread to the Forest and become more intense and harder to control. The threat to life, property, and key ecosystem components like mature forests has created the need to pursue this project.

Historically, the proposed area likely experienced low intensity ground fires more frequently than other locations of the district. In the past, naturally occurring fires have cleared out areas of brush and removed tree species that are not adapted to fire. The need to suppress wildfires in this area has created a forest landscape that is altered by what may have occurred naturally. Now, this area is in a condition where tree densities and fuel loads could support a crown fire.

Using prescribed fire and other management alternatives (including timber harvesting), the goal of this project is to reduce the overall risk of high-intensity, stand-replacing fires. In so doing, we should be able to reduce the size and intensity of potential wildfires near the urban interface.



**Figure 2:** Brush encroachment in ponderosa pine / Douglas-fir forest.

The proposal includes plans to reduce the density of the tree canopy, and to reduce the amounts of fuel that a fire uses to spread both on the ground and needed to climb into tree canopies (ladder fuels). The project would also work to decrease the size and density of brush, and protect and promote naturally fire resistant species such as ponderosa pine and western larch. The project will put a large emphasis on large, fire resistant trees. In all treatments, all white pine, larch and ponderosa pine and some Douglas-fir will remain.



**Figure 3:** Grassy opening in ponderosa pine area near southern portion of proposed area.

In the proposed area, approximately 450 acres is scheduled for commercial timber harvest followed by underburning. Seventy acres are scheduled to be pruned and precommercially thinned, followed by handpiling. Another 120 acres are scheduled for prescribed burning. Secondary activities like slashing and tree planting may also occur in the area. Some proposed activities are contingent upon gaining access through private land, and the process of gaining access is ongoing.

In our efforts to manage the Forest land effectively, we are required to properly identify the cumulative effects our projects may have on the land, as well as the effects resulting from management of adjacent property. For example, we would appreciate knowing of any timber harvesting, road construction, fuel reduction or other development projects that are ongoing or planned for the future in this area. It is not our intent to try to influence your plans in any way, simply to take into account the combined anticipated effects of all ongoing or reasonably foreseeable activities in this area.

If you would like to learn more about protecting your home against the risk of wildfire, contact Fire Smart Kootenai County, a program of the Kootenai County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Program Manager Larry Isenberg can be contacted at (208)772-6704. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please feel free to contact Project Team Leader Sarah Jerome at (208) 556-5109.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH P. STRINGER  
District Ranger