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CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCOPING PROCESS

Public Notices and Outreach

The Gardiner Ranger District's Monthly Newsletter for June, 1998, through March, 1999, listed the proposed project in the newsletter's environmental analysis table.

In addition, copies were mailed to Louise Bruce (Northern Plains Resource Council) and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

The Gallatin National Forest's Proposed Project Listing for the quarter beginning April, 1998, and subsequent quarterly listings have included this project (listed initially as the "Jardine" Timber Sale). The Darroch-Eagle Creek Timber Sale was listed again in the Gallatin National Forest's Proposed Project Listing for the quarter beginning January, 2004. The Proposed Project Listing is mailed to several hundred people interested in management of the Gallatin National Forest.

Chronology of Public Participation Activities

On October 1, 1993, President Clinton signed into law the Gallatin Range Consolidation and Protection Act which provides for Federal acquisition of over 83,000 acres, in a series of exchanges and purchases, of Big Sky Lumber Company Lands (BSL) inholdings within the Gallatin National Forest. Enactment of the law followed several years of effort by the Montana congressional delegation with strong interagency and public support.

The first exchange of BSL lands to National Forest ownership (Gallatin I Land Exchange) occurred in December 1993, and involved acquisition of 37,750 acres located within the Gallatin Range, Paradise Valley, and other lands within the Absaroka and Bridger Ranges.

The Act also authorized and directs the Forest Service to complete future acquisitions involving another 46,000 acres in four areas of the Gallatin National Forest -- Porcupine, Taylor Fork area of the Madison Range, Gallatin roaded area of the Gallatin Range, and the North Bridgers. The Porcupine Area was the next priority within this overall protection effort. In late winter 1995, acquisition of approximately 8,000 acres of BSL lands located in the Porcupine drainage and South Cottonwood drainage occurred, involving a partnership with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Nature Conservancy.

The majority of the lands identified in the Act which are located in the Taylor Fork, Gallatin Range and North Bridgers (totalling 38,000 acres) have been acquired. Most of these lands are being acquired by exchange for an approximately equal value of federal lands and timber.

In late 1996 and early 1997, a set of "planning criteria" was developed to identify and design timber sale opportunities to assist with the Big Sky Lumber Co./U.S. Forest Service land-for-timber exchange (becoming known as the "BSL timber sales"), a key component of the Gallatin Range Consolidation and Protection Act of 1993. The Darroch-Eagle Creek Timber Sale (originally the "Jardine" Timber Sale) was initially listed in January 1997 as an opportunity that may contribute revenue to the exchange and also meet the planning criteria.

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A series of formal and informal public meetings were held throughout the month of May 1997 (Schedule of Public Meetings document May 5, 1997) to discuss various aspects of the land-for-timber exchange. Many of these meetings touched on some of the specifics for the exchange such as the Darroch-Eagle Creek Timber Sale. Additional meetings with key interests have been held since then.

The Darroch-Eagle Creek Timber Sale Position Statement (proposal) was prepared on 4/28/98. On 5/20/98, a scoping letter was sent to 146 interested groups and individuals describing five proposed BSL timber sales, including the Darroch-Eagle Creek sale proposal. In response to this invitation to comment, 17 letters were received from agencies, groups, and individuals. Of these, 14 letters contained comments and issues relevant to the Darroch-Eagle Creek proposal.

In March of 1999 the initial Darroch-Eagle Creek Environmental Assessment was released and allowed for a 30 day public comment period on the proposal. The EA was mailed out to 19 interested parties. Eleven letters of comment were received regarding the project.

A decision notice, FONZI and Appendix titled Response to Comments were mailed to the eleven commenters in May of 1999, thus beginning the 45-day appeal period.

Subsequently the project was appealed and litigated. Court findings required additional information to be provided leading to a Revised Environmental Assessment and Amended Biological Assessment being released to the public in November of 2002, again with a 30 day comment period. Copies of the Revised EA were mailed to 24 interested parties.

Comments on the revision were such to lead us to a decision to do a complete revision of the Environmental Assessment due to changing conditions, laws, species listings, etc. from the time the original EA was published for comment in March of 1999. Comments on the original EA are included as Appendix F, and comments on the first revision of the EA are incorporated into this second Revision of the EA.

In December of 2003, a letter was sent to 26 interested parties (the Revised EA mailing list and additional commentors) explaining the Forest Service's intention to release a second revision of the Darroch-Eagle Creek EA in January of 2004.

The second revision of the Darroch-Eagle Creek Timber Sale EA is being released in January of 2004 and will allow for an additional 30-day public comment period. This revised EA is being mailed to the 26 interested parties who received or commented on the first revision of the EA, as well as any other individuals or groups who may request a copy.

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED

Listed below are those agencies, organizations, and individual who received either the 5/20/98 scoping letter, the March 12, 1999 EA, the December 2002 Revised EA or were involved via other outreach processes, or who provided scoping comments. Locations are in Montana unless indicated otherwise.

Federal Agencies

Small Business Administration, Portland, OR
U.S. Bureau of Land management, Dan Lechefsky, Billings
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Helena
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ann Vandehey, Helena
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dale Harms, Helena
Yellowstone National Park, Mike Finley, Mammoth, WY

State Agencies

Montana Dept of Environmental Quality, Stuart Lehman
Montana Dept of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Kurt Alt
Montana Dept of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Tom Lemke
Montana Dept of Health and Environmental Sciences, Steve Traelles, Helena
Montana Dept of Natural Resources and Conservation, Jim Kalitowski, Bozeman
Montana State Clearinghouse, Budget and Program Planning, Helena

American Indian Tribes

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Pablo, MT
Crow Tribal Council, Crow Agency, MT
Shoshone-Bannock Cultural Committee, Fort Hall, ID
Shoshone Business Council, Fort Washakie, WY

Elected Officials

Joe Barnett, State Representative
Max Baucus, MT State Senator
Conrad Burns, MT State Senator (Susan Brooke)
City of Bozeman
City Manager, City of Livingston
Rick Hill, MT State Representative (Peggy Trenk)
Gallatin County Commissioners, Bozeman
Park County Commissioners, Livingston
Dennis Rehberg, MT State Representative

Media

Bozeman Daily Chronicle
High Country Independent Press, Belgrade
High Country News, Paonia, CO
K26DE Television, Bozeman
KEMC/KBMC FM, National Public Radio, Billings, MT
MSU Exponent, Montana State University, Bozeman
Scott McMillion, Livingston

Organizations

Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Michael Garrity, Missoula
Alpine Log Homes, Bill Thurston, Victor
American Fisheries Society, Susan Ireland, Bozeman
American Wildlands, Kim Davitt, Bozeman
Bear Creek Council, Richard Parks, Gardiner
Back Country Horsemen of America, Greater Yellowstone Chapter, Billings
Back Country Horsemen of Gallatin County, Bozeman
Bear Creek Log Homes, Gallatin Gateway
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, Big Sky
Big Sky Lumber Co., Bozeman
Big R Manufacturing & Dist, Inc., Greeley, CO
Big Sky Snowriders, Livingston
Bitterroot Dry Log, Inc., Darby
Bozeman Chamber of Commerce, Bozeman

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Bozeman Viewshed Council, Bozeman
Bremmeyer Logging Co., Ravensdale, WA
Bridger Canyon Property Owners Association, Michael Liebelson, Bozeman
Bridger Mountain Log Homes, Stan Yung, Belgrade
Cascade Appraisal Service, Wilsonville, OR
Citizens to Save Gallatin Valley Face, Gallatin Gateway
Clark Timber Products, Ashton, ID
Cody Lumber Company, Cody, WY
Covered Wagon Ranch, Will King, Gallatin Gateway
Defenders of Wildlife, Hank Fischer, Missoula
Diamond W Post & Pole, Belgrade
Eagle Stud Mill, Inc., Hall
Ecology Center The), Sheramn Bumford, Missoula
Emco H D Company, Bozeman
Forest Creek Homeowners Association, Fred Parsons, Bozeman
Forest Guardians/FCC, John Talberth, Santa Fe, NM
Forest Products Division, Richard Lane, Missoula
Gallatin Canyon Campgrounds, Esther Fishbaugh, Bozeman
Gallatin County Saddle Club, Bozeman
Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association, Bozeman
Gallatin Wildlife Association, Bozeman
Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Tim Stevens, Bozeman
Gunsel Horse Adventures, Rapid City, SD
High Cascade / W.K.O. Inc., Clarkston, WA
Idaho Forest Industries Inc., Coeur D Alene, ID
Inland Pacific Forest Properties, Blanchard ID
Jackson Hole Log Homes, Jackson, WY
JD Lumber, Inc., Judith Gap
Intermountian Forest Industry, Coeur d'Alene, ID
Intermountian Forest Industries Association, Missoula
Livingston Peak Homeowners Association, Gordon Chase, Livingston
Lone Mountain Guest Ranch, Big Sky
Louisiana-Pacific Corp., Belgrade
Louisiana-Pacific Corp., Deer Lodge
McDaniel & Sons Contractors, Great Falls
Middle Creek Water Users Association, Bozeman
Montana Audubon Council, James Phelps, Billings
Montana Audubon Council, Bozeman
Montana Ecosystems Defense Council, Steve Kelly, Bozeman
Montana Environmental Information Center, Helena
Montana Land and Cattle Company, Chester Mussetter, Livingston
Montana Loggers Association, Pat Wilhelm, Belgrade
Montana Wilderness Association, Billings
Montana Wilderness Association, SW Field Office, Allen Cook and Don Mazzola, Bozeman
Montana Wilderness Association, Helena
Montana Wood Products Association, Cary Hegreberg, Helena
Moonlight Logging Co., Livingston
National Wildlife Federation, Chuck Griffith, Bozeman
Native Ecosystems Council, Sara Jane Johnson, Willow Creek
Native Forest Network, Phil Knight, Bozeman
Nature Conservancy, Helena
Northwest House Logs, Victor
Park County Environmental Coalition, Jim Barrett, Livingston
Plum Creek Manufacturing, Ron Johnson, Columbia Falls
Predator Conservation Alliance, Shawn Regnerus, Bozeman
Public Lands Access Association, Monte Cooper, Bozeman

Pyramid Mountain Lumber Co., Seeley Lake
Rocky Mountain Log Homes, Hamilton
Royal Teton Ranch, Murray Steinman, Corwin Springs
R-Y Timber Inc., Townsend
R-Y Timber Inc., Tim Egan, Livingston
Sierra Club Grizzly Bear Ecosystems Project, Louisa Willcox, Bozeman
Sierra Club Headwaters Group, Bozeman
Stone Container Corporation, Helena
T&S Cheff Logging, Bozeman
Wilderness Society, Bob Ekey Bozeman
Wilkins, Kaiser, Olsen Inc., Bill Wilkins Sr., Carson, WA
Wyoming Sawmills Inc., Sheridan, WY
Yellowstone Log Homes, Rigby, ID

Individuals

Doug Baker, Nezperce, ID
Robert Boik, Bozeman
Timothy Border, Bozeman
Sandra Cahill, Livingston
Gwen Curr, Ucon, ID
Quincy Curr, Chewster, ID
Larry Durgan, Livingston
Maurice and Nancy Dusenberry, Bozeman
Joe Gutoski, Bozeman, MT
Vern Hamre, Gallatin Gateway
Hans Haumberger, Manhattan
Tim Jensen, Pacific Grove, CA
Scott Jensen, Polson
Lloyd Johnson, Gardiner
Ralph and Becky Johnson, Gardiner
Phillip Knight, Bozeman
Jean McInnes, Bozeman
Ross MacPherson, Bozeman
Scott McMillion, Livingston
David Molebash, Livingston
George Nell, Gardner
Andy O'Hair, Livingston
Robert Olson, Livingston
William Otto, Bozeman
Julia Page, Gardiner
Gary Peck, Bozeman
Jack Peters, Bozeman
John A. Peters, Bozeman
Pete Peters, Livingston
Libby Plaggemeyer, Big Timber
Charlie Rahn, Livingston
Hank Rate, Gardiner
Malcolm Ringwalt
Don Ross, Darby
G. H. Sharrer, West Linn, OR
Wendy and Jerry Thomas, Gardiner
Peter Walsh, Livingston
Ted Watson, Livingston
Jerry Weimer, Livingston

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Louisa Wilcox
Kevin Williams, Darby
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Legal Counsel

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Joseph W. Sabol, Attorney and Counselor at Law

DISTRIBUTION AND REVIEW OF THE EA'S FOR THIS PROJECT

Distribution

A legal notice is being published in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, stating the EA is available for public review and comment. Legal notices were also published for the 1999 and 2002 versions of the EA. Copies of the March 1999 EA were mailed to 19 persons, groups, local governments, and agencies that had expressed interest in the project. Copies of the November 2002 Revised EA were mailed to 24 persons, groups, local governments, legal counsel, and agencies that had expressed interest in the project. The January 2004 second revision EA is being sent to the same mailing list as that for November 2002. The mailing list was compiled using names and addresses from the following sources:

- Parties who requested to have their names placed on the mailing list for the project;
- Parties who have submitted written comments to date in the process;
- Federal and State agencies consulted during preparation of the EA; and
- Others who have historically expressed interest in this type of project.
- Legal counsel for the Forest Service and Appellants

Review

Copies of this EA can be viewed at the following locations:

- Bozeman Ranger District Office, Bozeman, MT
- Gardiner Ranger District Office, Gardiner, MT

Copies of the document are also available from the following address:

USDA-Forest Service
C/o Barbara Ping
Forest Ecology Group
Bozeman Ranger District
3710 Fallon St. Suite C
Bozeman, Montana 59718
(406)-522-2570

LIST OF PREPARERS

The Forest Service employees listed in Table 4-1 comprise the Interdisciplinary Team that conducted the environmental analysis and prepared the disclosure document for this project:

Table 4-1. List of Preparers

Name	Responsibility	Credentials	Years Experience
Walt Allen	Cultural Resources	MA, Anthropology/Archaeology	22
Steve Cassani	Economics	MA, Philosophy BA, Philosophy AA, Forestry	27
Steve Christiansen	Environmental Specialist	BS, Forest Management	25
Ron Gardner	Recreation, Wilderness	BS, Forest Management	28
Tris Hoffman	Sensitive Plants, Wildlife GIS Analysis	MS, Range Science BS, Zoology	6
Pat Hoppe	Range, Noxious Weeds	BS, Range Science	26
Jonathan Kempff	Transportation, Logging Systems	BS, Civil Engineering	21
Greg Kujawa	ID Team Leader, Timber, GIS Analysis, Writer-Editor	BS, Forest Management	27
Mark Novak	Silviculture, Vegetation, Ecology	BS, Forest Sciences	22
Barb Ping	Writer, Editor (New 2004) EA	Forestry Technician, Forest Ecology Group	20
Dick Rath	Fire, Fuels Management	Grad studies, Fire Sciences BS, Education	29
Jane Ruchman	Scenery	MLA, Landscape Architecture MAT, Teaching (Art) BA, Fine Arts	16
Kimberly Schlenker	Roadless Areas	BS, Forestry	24
Henry Shovic	Soils	PhD, Soils MS, Industrial Engineering BS, Industrial Engineering	29
Scot Shuler	Fisheries, Sensitive Fish	MS, Aquatic Ecology BS, Fish and Wildlife Biology	16
J.T. Stangl	Wildlife Support	MS, Biology BS, Wildlife Management	16
Colleen Stein	GIS Analysis and Support	GIS studies BA, Business Administration	12
Mark Story	Hydrology	MS, Watershed Management BS, Wildlife Management	28
Steve Swain	GIS Analysis and Support	GIS studies, Planning Analyst BS, Forestry	26
Dan Tyers	Wildlife; Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive Species	PhD, Biological Sciences MS, Range Management/Wildlife Biology BS, Plant and Soil Science/Recreation Mgt	27