



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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Comment Period Opening for North Savery Project, Open Houses Planned

(SARATOGA, Wyo.) November 30, 2015 – U.S. Forest Service (USFS) officials will be hosting two open houses in the coming weeks to distribute information for the North Savery Project, located in the northwest Sierra Madre Range on the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District, Medicine Bow National Forest.

A 60-day comment period on the project's proposed action is expected to begin this week, with publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register.

The purpose of the project is to improve ecosystem health and forest productivity through vegetation, fuels, and road actions. Primarily, the project would harvest timber from mountain pine beetle affected stands.

The North Savery Project proposal includes vegetation treatments totaling 6,500 acres. Salvaging timber will amount for 5,500 acres, and there will be 1,000 acres of pre-commercial thinning, clearing hazardous trees from roadsides, and hazardous fuel removal.

The proposal also includes improving access to the forest by rerouting impassable roads, creating connectors with well-placed unauthorized routes, designating off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails in areas used primarily by OHVs, and decommissioning roads that are negatively impacting natural resources.

North Savery was once planned as part of a larger project which was presented to the public in 2010, but has since been implemented in smaller parts.

Open houses for the North Savery Project will have maps available for viewing and copies of the proposed action available. USFS personnel will be on hand to answer questions. Dates and locations are as follows:

Rawlins

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the BLM – Rawlins Field Office, 1300 North Third St.

Saratoga/Encampment

Thursday, Dec. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Platte Valley Community Center, 210 Elm

Following is the approximate timeline for the remainder of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process:

The Forest Service plans to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental analysis and decide whether or not to implement the proposed action or another alternative as early as the fall of 2016. The environmental analysis will be documented in an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The District may begin implementing this project as soon as 2017. The Responsible Official for this project is Melanie Fullman, Brush Creek/Hayden District Ranger.

The project proposal is posted on the web at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47913 , and copies can be obtained at the District offices in Laramie or Saratoga. Maps of the proposed action can be printed from the project web site.

Ranger Fullman is available to answer questions at the District office number, (307) 326-5258, or via email, mfullman@fs.fed.us. Interested parties can also stop by the BCH District office at 2171 S. Highway 130 in Saratoga between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

Those in the Laramie area can contact Monique Nelson, Environmental Coordinator, at (307) 745-2310, moniquenelson@fs.fed.us, or stop by the Laramie District Office at 2468 Jackson St. 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. – Fri. You can also visit our web site at <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>, or follow the Medicine Bow National Forest on Twitter, **@FS_MBRTB**.

Those wishing to visit with USFS staff during office hours about North Savery are advised to call ahead for availability due to the holiday season.

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