



# NEWS RELEASE

## *Lolo National Forest*

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United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Lolo National Forest  
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## Public Meeting Announced for Center Horse Project

Seeley Lake, Montana – The Lolo National Forest is proposing land management activities within a 61,300-acre project area for the Center Horse Landscape Restoration project located about 14 miles north of Ovando, Montana and the Seeley Lake Ranger District will host a public meeting to present project details on January, 19 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Seeley Lake Community Hall.

The Center Horse Landscape Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been completed and is available on the Lolo National Forest website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/lolo>.

There will be a 45-day comment period on this Draft EIS, which ends February 16, 2016. Comments should be sent to Tami Paulsen, Missoula Ranger District, 24 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804.

The project objectives include: 1) improve/restore forest composition, spatial arrangement and structure, 2) restore fire adapted ecosystems, 3) improve water quality, restore or enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and conserve and improve soil resources, and 4) right size the existing transportation network to meet public and administrative needs while at the same time eliminating unneeded roads and trails.

The DEIS analyzes 3 alternatives: No Action (A) and two action alternatives (B and C). Land management activities proposed include: vegetation management, (e.g., commercial harvest, non-commercial tree cutting, prescribed burning, weed treatment); road treatments (e.g., decommissioning, storage, and maintenance, and re-routing road segments away from sensitive riparian areas); watershed improvements (e.g., culvert replacements and removals); and soil restoration activities (weed treatments, landing and skid trail rehabilitation, and shrub and tree planting).

This work would likely be implemented in phases over a five-to ten-year period which is anticipated to begin in 2017. The Center Horse project area is part of the Southwest Crown Collaborative (SWCC). In 2010, the SWCC was one of ten national collaboratives awarded funding through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP). The purpose of the CFLRP is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes.

More information about this project can be found on the Lolo National Forest website at [www.fs.usda.gov/lolo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lolo) or contact Tami Paulsen, Project Leader, at (406) 329-3731.