

Pikes Peak Ranger District, Pike National Forest Trout West Phase 2 Environmental Assessment

This notice is for the Trout West Phase 2 Environmental Assessment on the Pikes Peak Ranger District of the Pike National Forest regarding the proposed vegetation treatments including thinning, creating openings, prescribed burning, and removing trees on up to 28,000 acres within the Trout West Phase 2 Project Area, Northwest of Woodland Park, Colorado. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of large-scale fires and restore the forest to more sustainable conditions. Part of this process is to provide public notice and gather comments regarding the proposals and any concerns or changed conditions since the Trout West EIS that evaluated this area was completed in July, 2003.

This proposed treatment tiers to the Trout West Fuels Reduction Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) dated July 14, 2003. The Forest Service Handbook (FSH) provides for the adoption of previous EAs to eliminate duplication and reduce excessive paperwork. All comments and analysis related to that decision remain the same

If you have any questions about this proposal, or would like more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/projects> or contact Bob Ayotte at 719-477-4216. If you have any comments about these uses, please submit them in writing by July, 14, 2009 to District Ranger, Pikes Peak Ranger District, 601 S. Weber Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

Following consideration of the comments a DN/FONSI or a Notice of Intent (NOI) to file an Environmental Impact Statement will be issued. The complete notice and support documentation is available under "Related Links" or by contacting the Forest Service at the above address.

All public comments will be considered before making a decision on the Environmental Assessment (EA). Please provide specific facts along with supporting rationale that you believe should be considered in reaching a decision. You must provide substantive comments during this 30-day comment period in order to have administrative appeal rights. Comments may be submitted in writing or through electronic means. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action, and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requestor of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied; the agency will return the submission and notify the requestor that the comments may be re-submitted with or without name and address within 15 days.