



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Spotted Bear Ranger District Seeks Public Comment on the Soldier Addition Project

The Spotted Bear Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest has completed an environmental assessment for the Soldier Addition Project and request public comment on the document. The proposed project is located on National Forest System lands near the southern end of the Hungry Horse Reservoir. Proposed actions of the project include tree harvest, forest thinning, prescribed burning and some hazardous fuels reduction.

Spotted Bear District Ranger Deb Mucklow said, “We incorporated public comment we received during the scoping period last Fall and have developed four alternatives for this project.” Mucklow asks for feedback on the alternatives by the end of August.

The proposed project is based on forest plan guidance and information from an area watershed level assessment. The purpose and need for the project include:

- ❖ Maintaining or improving timber productivity and forest resilience and health,
- ❖ Restoring the role of fire in the ecosystem,
- ❖ Maintaining the viability and function of whitebark pine,
- ❖ Maintaining and improving recreational values and the safety of visitors at developed recreation sites and other areas within the Wild and Scenic River corridor, and
- ❖ Protecting an electronic site from danger due to future wildland fires.

The proposed Soldier Addition Project includes tree harvest in mature stands on approximately 1,200 acres and tree thinning in young sapling forests on about 800 acres. Prescribed burning would be conducted on approximately 1,800 acres and hazardous fuel reduction would take place on four acres around the Stony Hill Electronic Site.

For more information, please contact Project Leader Michele Draggoo at 387-3827, Spotted Bear District Ranger Deb Mucklow at 758-5376, or visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead, click on projects and plans, projects.

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