



File Code: 1950; 2410
Date: October 29, 2018

Dear Interested Party,

The Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District of the White River National Forest (WRNF) welcomes your comments on our proposal to implement a variety of management activities in the vicinity of Muddy Pass and Sheephorn, in Eagle County, Colorado. Proposed activities include logging and associated activities, road reconstruction, broadcast burning, fence installations, adding an existing non-system road to our travel management plan as a system route, and installing a fish barrier. Your comments will help us further develop the proposed action, potential alternatives, and complete an environmental assessment.

To make a fully informed decision it is important that I understand any issues you may have with this proposal and how you believe they could be addressed. In the context of our environmental analysis, “issues” are defined as concerns with the proposed action based on some effect you believe it would cause. In order for your input to be most useful, it should be specific to this proposal rather than generic to all projects of this type. Comments offered in support of the proposal are also welcome.

A Notice of Proposed Action is available online at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53148>. The notice and supporting documentation is also available for review at the Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District located in Minturn, Colorado. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Brett Crary, 24747 US Hwy 24, PO Box 190, Minturn, CO 81645, phone (970) 328-5899 or email at bcrary@fs.fed.us.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and subject to the objection process described in 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The Forest Service is combining scoping with the legal notice and opportunity to comment, as described in 36 CFR 218.24. A public meeting will be held to provide project information at the Walking Mountains Science Center, located at 318 Walking Mountains Lane, Avon, CO 81620, November 29th, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The proposed action includes openings greater than 40 acres. The mountain pine beetle epidemic caused extensive mortality in lodgepole pine stands in the project area from about the years 2002 to 2011. Therefore, openings greater than 40 acres in the lodgepole pine component (clearcut with leave tree) of this project are the result of natural catastrophic conditions and not subject to a 60-day public review, or Regional Forester approval. Proposed Coppice Cuts in aspen stands, however, are not the result of natural catastrophic conditions. Instead, harvesting units larger than 40 acres are proposed to maximize sprouting to help ensure these units fully regenerate and withstand browse. Coppice units greater than 40 acres in size will require



approval by the Regional Forester after a 60-day public review. In accordance with this standard, specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 60 calendar days following publication of the legal notice in the Vail Daily. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted via mail, fax, electronically, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Richard Truex, Acting District Ranger c/o Brett Crary, 24747 US Hwy 24, PO Box 190, Minturn, CO 81645, FAX (970) 827-9343. Electronic comments including attachments can be submitted here: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=53148>.

Persons commenting should include: 1) name, address, telephone number, organization represented, if any; 2) title of project for which the comment is being submitted; and 3) specific facts and supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments will have eligibility to file an objection under §218.25(a)(3). Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act. This legal notice also serves to notify and invite public comment on the proposal as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Thank you for your interest and engagement in the management of your White River National Forest.

Sincerely,



RICHARD TRUEX
Acting District Ranger

cc: rtruex@fs.fed.us, shankens@fs.fed.us, bcrary@fs.fed.us