



File Code: 1950

Date: July 24, 2019

The Sandpoint Ranger District is currently planning the **Scattered Old House Project**. We are designing the project to achieve fuels reduction goals through the use of thinning, piling, and burning of fuels. The purpose of this letter is to share information about the project and invite you to comment on the proposal.

The project is located approximately four miles north east of the town of Athol, Idaho. Proposed activities would occur only on public lands managed by the Sandpoint Ranger District in Bonner County, Idaho. (See Figure 3 Map of Project Area).

These stands are currently comprised of a mixture of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, western larch, and ponderosa pine. The trees have been damaged by snow, wind, and bark beetle infestation. This is contributing to accumulations of hazardous fuels and will continue to do so without treatment. These parcels are located within the wildland-urban interface (WUI), and several private residences are adjacent to these parcels.

The proposal includes thinning of trees that would leave the healthiest trees. To reduce hazardous fuels occurring naturally and from the treatment, trees will be utilized for merchantable material to the greatest extent possible, including saw timber, pulpwood, and special forest products. Material that does not meet merchantability standards will be piled in openings or landings and burned, or masticated throughout the units. No new road construction is proposed.



Figure 1 Areas of heavy down hazardous fuels



Figure 2 Damaged trees in the project area

Implementation of the project would begin this summer continuing through the fall of 2020.

The Sandpoint Ranger District welcomes your comments about this proposal. We can best use your comments if they are received no later than August 7, 2019. Comments that focus on specific actions or proposed actions will allow us to address your comments more clearly. If you would be interested commenting or you would just like more information, please contact Project Leader, Sara Sink (208-443-6834 or sara.sink@usda.gov).

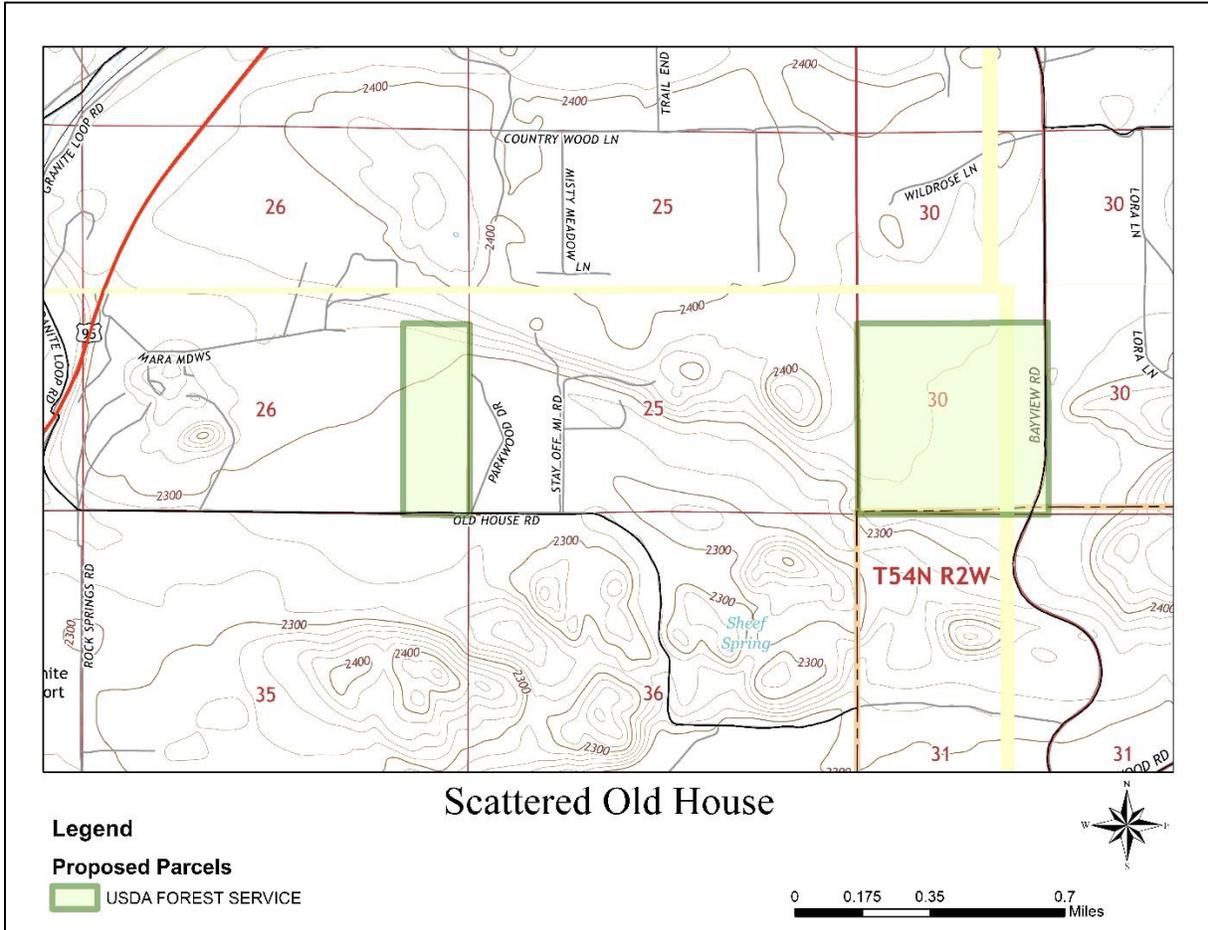


Figure 3 Map of Project Area