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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** November 29, 2018

Dear Interested Party,

The Aspen-Sopris Ranger District of the White River National Forest (WRNF) welcomes your comments on our proposal to implement vegetation management activities on Basalt Mountain located in Eagle County, Colorado. Proposed activities include removal of roadside hazard trees along Cattle Creek Road (NFSR 509) and Basalt Mountain Road (NFSR 524), salvage harvest of burnt and partially burnt trees and associated activities, creating defensible space near homes in the Cattle Creek area, minor road reconstruction, monitoring and assessing natural reforestation and tree planting. 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:  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55031>. The notice and supporting documentation is also available for review at the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Christopher McDonald, (970) 625-6856 or email at [cmcdonald@fs.fed.us](mailto:cmcdonald@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 open house will be held at the Basalt Library, located at 14 Midland Ave, Basalt, CO 81621, December 11th, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Your participation is encourage to ask questions and learn more about the project.

### **How to Comment and Timeframe**

The opportunity to comment is initiated by a legal notice published in the Aspen Times on Nov. 29, 2018. Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of the legal notice in the Aspen Times. 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: Karen Schroyer, District Ranger, c/o Christopher McDonald, PO Box 309, Carbondale, Colorado 81623, FAX: (970) 963-1012. Electronic comments including attachments can be submitted to <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=55031>. 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,



KEVIN WARNER  
Acting District Ranger