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Notices Legal Notices

USDA Forest Service, Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest Butte and Wise River Ranger Districts T1N, R9, 10, 11 and 12W; T2N, R9, 10, 11, and 12W; T3N, R9, 10, 11, and 12W Silver Bow and Deer Lodge counties, Montana Fleeceer Mountains Project

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Fleeceer Mountains Project has been updated and is available online at http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=32751 or by request at the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor's Office, 420 Barrett St., Dillon Montana, 59725. Additional information regarding this project can be obtained from Leaf Magnuson, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, at 406-683-3950 or send her an e-mail at lmagnuson@fs.fed.us.

This project proposes to implement several recommendations from the Fleeceer Watershed Assessment. The project is intended to: 1) treat as many acres of aspen as possible, including aspen clones in upland stands, to increase aspen stand vigor where a level of protection from browsing can be assured; 2) use fire to create the mosaic of big sagebrush and grassland communities that historically occurred in the assessment area; 3) push back colonization of Douglas-fir from sites where it didn't historically grow; 4) reduce stand densities (thin) in as many Douglas-fir stands as possible to reduce mortality from Douglas-fir bark beetle; and 5) salvage dead trees killed by mountain pine beetle in lodgepole pine. It also includes securing and restoring westslope cutthroat trout populations in the fish key watersheds in part by constructing barriers and replacing culverts that prevent aquatic organism passage.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.25 comments on this proposed project will be accepted for 30 days beginning on the first day after the date of publication of the legal notice the paper of record (The Montana Standard). If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day.

Only individuals or entities, as defined by 36 CFR 218.2, who submit timely and specific written comments also defined by 36 CFR 218.2, about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the responsible official will be eligible to file an objection. Other eligibility requirements are defined by 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments. Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments in order to be eligible to object as an individual. Timely submissions will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(4). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2).

Submit comments to the Responsible Official who is David A. Sabo, Butte and Jefferson District Ranger, by one of the following methods; mail: 1820 Meadowlark Lane, Butte, MT 59701, telephone: 406-494-2147, facsimile: 406-494-0269, or email: comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge@fs.fed.us.

Please type "2016 Fleeceer EA" in the subject line for your comments to be considered in the final decision. Office hours, for those who wish to hand deliver their comments, are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday (except Federal holidays). Acceptable formats for electronic comments are text or html e-mail, Adobe portable document format, and formats that will open in Microsoft Office applications.

Oct. 15, 2016 MNAXLP