



## Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

01/01/2025 to 03/31/2025

### Bitterroot National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
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#### Projects Occurring Nationwide

Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System EIS	- Land management planning	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 06/21/2024 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2024	Expected:01/2025	01/2025	Jennifer McRae 202-791-8488 SM.FS.NFSWONGA@u sda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> Amend all land management plans for units of the National Forest System to include consistent direction to conserve and steward existing and recruit future old-growth forest conditions and to monitor their condition across planning areas of NFS.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. National Forests and Grasslands (128 units).				
Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Sarah Shoemaker 907-586-7886 sarahshoemaker@fs.fe d.us
	<b>Description:</b> The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes revisions to its regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A governing locatable minerals operations on National Forest System lands.A draft EIS & proposed rule should be available for review/comment in late 2020				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These regulations apply to all NFS lands open to mineral entry under the US mining laws. More Information is available at: <a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions">https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions</a> .				

Bitterroot National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)

R1 - Northern Region

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Bitterroot National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)</b>					<b>R1 - Northern Region</b>
<b>West Fork and Darby/Sula Ranger District Water System Improvement</b> CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 06/05/2023	Expected:08/2023	09/2023	Erica Strayer 406-821-4298 erica.strayer@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The Bitterroot National Forest is proposing to improve three water systems in recreational and administrative facilities.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64227">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64227</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Darby Ranger District, Sula Ranger District, West Fork Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Magruder Ranger Station, Paradise Guard Station, Warm Springs Campground.				

<b>Bitterroot National Forest Darby Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R1 - Northern Region</b>
<b>Rye Creek Fuel Break Categorical Exclusion</b> CE	- Fuels management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 08/31/2023	Expected:10/2024	05/2025	Jacquie Parks 406-821-4268 jacquie.parks@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> This project would establish fuel breaks in approximately 1,866 acres along approximately 24 miles of roads, of which 95% were affected by wildfires in 2000.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64726">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64726</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Darby Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project is located 10 miles SE of Hamilton, Montana (Ravalli County) in the Sleeping Child watershed.				
<b>Sleeping Child Fuel Break Categorical Exclusion</b> CE	- Fuels management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 08/31/2023	Expected:10/2024	05/2025	Jacquie Parks 406-821-4268 jacquie.parks@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> This project would establish fuel breaks in approximately 2,130 acres along approximately 24 miles of roads in areas that were affected by wildfires in 2000.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64728">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64728</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Darby Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project is located 10 miles SE of Hamilton, Montana (Ravalli County) in the Sleeping Child watershed.				

<b>Bitterroot National Forest</b>	<b>Stevensville Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>	<b>R1 - Northern Region</b>
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Bitterroot National Forest Stevensville Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R1 - Northern Region</b>
<b>Bitterroot Front</b> EA  *UPDATED*	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Road management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 08/17/2023	Expected:02/2025	02/2025	Steve Brown 406-777-7410 steve.brown2@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> The intent of this proposed project and associated project-specific amendments is to address wildfire risk to communities and promote forest restoration on lands administered by the Stevensville and Darby-Sula Ranger Districts.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57341">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57341</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Stevensville Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Missoula, Ravalli. LEGAL - Multiple sections in: T10N/R20W-R21W, T11N/R20W-R21W, T2N/R21W-R22W, T3N/R21W-R22W, T4N/R21W-R23W, T5N/R21W-R23W, T6N/R21W-R22W, T7N/R21W-R22W, T8N/R21W-R22W, T9N/R20W-R21W. Project area includes Forest Service lands on the eastern front of the Bitterroot Range from Darby, MT (Trapper Creek area) to Florence, MT (McClain Creek area) on the Darby and Stevensville RDs.				

<b>Bitterroot National Forest Sula Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R1 - Northern Region</b>
<b>East Fork Fishing Access Site Project</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/16/2021	Expected:04/2023	06/2023	Mike Jakober 406-821-3269 Michael.Jakober@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> This project would use boulders to create a parking area and prevent unauthorized, motorized access to a user-created route that is currently causing damage to a wetland along the East Fork Bitterroot River.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59533">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59533</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Sula Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Forest Service land along the East Fork Bitterroot River at milepost 12.9 of the East Fork Highway.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Bitterroot National Forest</b>	<b>Sula Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>				<b>R1 - Northern Region</b>
<b>Sula District Fuel Break Categorical Exclusion</b> CE	- Fuels management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 08/31/2023	Expected:10/2024	05/2025	Jacquie Parks 406-821-4268 jacquie.parks@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> This project would establish fuel breaks in approximately 3,000 acres along existing roads, of which 95% were affected by wildfires in 2000.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64729">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64729</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Sula Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This project is located 17 miles SE of Darby, Montana, in the Sleeping Child watershed.				

<b>Bitterroot National Forest</b>	<b>West Fork Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>				<b>R1 - Northern Region</b>
<b>Sheep Creek Rare Earth Exploration Proposal</b> EA	- Minerals and Geology	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2025	Expected:01/2026	01/2027	Daniel Pliley 4065876892 Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> We have received 3 Notices of Intent for the 22-24 field seasons for Rare Earth exploration for Sheep Creek. No Plan of Operations has been received; NEPA analysis would begin after receipt. To subscribe for email updates click the link on the right.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65203">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65203</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - West Fork Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This Rare Earth Exploration Proposal would take place in the Sheep Creek area of the West Fork Ranger District of the Bitterroot National Forest.				
<b>Soda Baker Wildfire Risk Reduction and Forest Restoration Project Fuel Break Categorical Exclusion</b> CE	- Fuels management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 08/31/2023 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 10/2024	Expected:10/2024	05/2025	David Fox 406-821-1226 david.fox@usda.gov
	<b>Description:</b> This project would establish fuel break in approximately 2,378 acres.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64706">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64706</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - West Fork Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - T2N, R21W, Sections 27-30 & 32-34, T1N, R21W, Sections 5-9 & 16-20, T1N, R22W, Sections 22-29 & 32-34. The Soda Baker Project is located in the West Fork of the Bitterroot, between Soda Springs Creek and Trapper Creek. The project area is 4 to 14 miles SW of Conner, MT within the #18 ranked fireshed.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Bitterroot National Forest		West Fork Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R1 - Northern Region
Thunder Mountain CE  *UPDATED*	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 02/01/2023	Expected:04/2025	04/2025	David Fox 406-821-1226 david.fox@usda.gov
<b>Description:</b> This project proposes to reduce fuels and wildfire risk within the Wildland Urban Interface, promote insect and disease resiliency and increase the health and vigor of early seral species (ponderosa pine) across approximately 466 acres.					
<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63393">http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63393</a>					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - West Fork Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project is located near the community of Alta, MT at the confluence of Hughes Creek and the West Fork. T2S, R22W, Sec 34, T3S, R22W, Sections 2 & 3 .					

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