

News Release

USDA Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project Final Environmental Impact Statement Completed

Jackson, Wyo. – The Jackson Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest has completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the proposed Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project. Both documents are available for review under the *Forest Service's Project-Level Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process* as found in 36 CFR 218 Subpart A and B. This is known as the “objection process” and provides previous commenters the opportunity to file objections to the final analysis document (the FEIS) and the Draft ROD which have been prepared by the interdisciplinary team and District Ranger Dale Deiter.

The Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project is located in Teton and Lincoln Counties just west of the town of Jackson, Wyoming. This project proposes to use thinning and prescribed fire treatments in the wildland-urban interface to reduce potential wildfire intensity and the need for aggressive suppression responses; reduce the likelihood of wildfire spreading to private lands; increase firefighter safety; and allow fire to operate more freely as a natural ecosystem process, especially in the Palisades Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

The FEIS includes three alternatives analyzed in detail: Alternative 1 (No Action), Alternative 2 (Modified Proposed Action), and Alternative 3 (Minimize Impacts to the WSA and Wildlife). The selected alternative is a modified version of Alternative 3 and is described in the Draft ROD. Modified Alternative 3 would mechanically thin about 1,853 acres and use prescribed fire on about 8,924 acres. Mechanical thinning would include commercial and non-commercial activities. Connected actions would remove selected hazardous snags, conduct about 14 miles of road maintenance and reconstruction, construct and then rehabilitate after use about 1 mile of temporary road, 6 miles of fire control lines, and 27 log landings. All actions include design features and best management practices to reduce or eliminate potential adverse environmental effects. No construction or reconstruction of temporary or permanent roads nor commercial harvest would occur within the WSA or inventoried roadless areas. All mechanical thinning units proposed in the Palisades Wilderness Study Area have been deferred in Modified Alternative 3 until such time that a legislative determination is made on the future designation of the WSA.

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project either during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment such as the DEIS comment period in accordance with § 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the

proposed project and attributable to the objector, unless based on new information arising after designated opportunities to comment.

The reviewing officer is Forest Supervisor Patricia O'Connor, Bridger-Teton National Forest. Written objections, including any attachments, must be filed (regular mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, or express delivery) with the reviewing officer at 340 N. Cache, P.O. Box 1888, Jackson, Wyoming 83001; or fax to 307-739-5010 or by email to: objections-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us within 45 days following the publication date of the legal notice in the Casper Star-Tribune, the newspaper of record. The office business hours for those submitting hand delivered objections are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, pdf, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc or .docx) to objections-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us . It is the responsibility of objectors to ensure their objection is received in a timely manner (§ 218.9).

The publication date of the legal notice in the Casper Star-Tribune, newspaper of record, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection of this project. Those wishing to object to this proposed project should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Extensions of the objection period are not permitted (36 CFR 218.6).

Online copies of the document and comment instructions can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=23638. For more information about this project, contact Steve Markason, North Zone Fire Management Officer at (307) 739-5431 or Andy Hall, North Zone Assistant Fore Management Officer at (307) 739-5425.

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