



**File Code:** 5150  
**Date:** July 28, 2015

Dear Interested Citizen,

You are invited to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project proposed on the Jackson Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The project is located in Teton and Lincoln Counties, Wyoming, south of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, west of Jackson Hole valley/Snake River corridor, and east of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The DEIS is available on the Forest website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=23638> or by contacting the ranger district office (contact information is below).

We propose 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 DEIS includes three alternatives analyzed in detail. Alternative 3 (the preferred alternative) would mechanically thin about 1,800 acres and use prescribed fire on about 12,500 acres. Mechanical thinning would include commercial and non-commercial activities. Connected actions would remove selected hazardous snags, conduct about 13 miles of road maintenance and reconstruction, construct and then rehabilitate after use about 1 mile of temporary road, 7 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.

As you may know, the environmental analysis and public involvement for this project began in 2010. Many of you have engaged with us since then during two formal comment periods and several public meetings that have helped to shape both of the action alternatives currently studied in the DEIS. The environmental analysis was paused in 2012 while we conducted the administrative process to produce a final map and perimeter boundary description for the Palisades Wilderness Study Area. That process was completed in 2014 and the final boundary is displayed on maps in the DEIS. Activities proposed within the final WSA boundary and the predicted effects to the WSA are described in Chapters 2 and 3 of the DEIS. As necessitated by the finalized WSA boundary, minor adjustments to treatments were made as needed to assure that no commercial harvest would occur within the WSA.

### **How to Comment**

The Environmental Protection Agency will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS in the Federal Register. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 45 days following that date. The publication date of the NOA in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in a draft EIS. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The NOA will be posted on the Forest's website upon publication, or you may contact Steve Markason (contact information is below) to determine the publication date of the NOA.

Written comments must be submitted to Dale Deiter, District Ranger. Comments may be submitted as follows:



- US Postal Service mailed to Jackson Ranger District, Bridger-Teton National Forest, 25 Rosencrans Lane, P.O. Box 1689, Jackson, WY 83001.
- FAX to (307) 739-5450
- Hand-delivered to the Jackson Ranger District during office business hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.
- Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as pdf, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc or .docx) to <http://tinyurl.com/tetontosnakefuels>. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

It is important that reviewers provide timely comments in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the final EIS and Record of Decision. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions related to the proposed activities. The Forest Service will consider cited references if the articles are submitted with the comment letter, and if the reviewer identifies the relevance of the findings to specific actions and effects of this particular project and place.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record. Please note that all comments received will be accessible for public view via the CARA system's "Public Reading Room".

### **Future Administrative and Judicial Review**

The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding this proposed project during a public comment period established by the responsible official will be eligible to file an objection to the draft Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement prepared after this opportunity to comment. Individuals and organizations *wishing to be* eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

For more information about this project, please contact Steve Markason, North Zone Fire Management Officer, at (307) 739-5431 or email [smarkason@fs.fed.us](mailto:smarkason@fs.fed.us).

I appreciate your time in reviewing the Teton to Snake Fuels Management Project DEIS and I lookforward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



DALE DEITER  
Jackson District Ranger