



Forest Service News Release

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Bridger-Teton NF Signs Decision for Fuels Reduction Work Along Big Sandy Road

Pinedale, Wyo., December 11, 2024—The Bridger-Teton National Forest plans to conduct a tree thinning project designed to reduce hazardous wildfire fuels near the Big Sandy trailhead in the southern Wind River Range. The project area, approximately 25 miles southeast of Boulder, WY, contains high levels of dead and down fuels due to historic fire suppression, blowdown events, lodgepole pine mortality from mountain pine beetle, and a large number of trees infested with western dwarf mistletoe. Work would begin in the summer of 2025.

A combination of prescribed pile-burning (Thin-Pile-Burn) and mechanical timber harvesting are planned to remove ladder fuels, blown-down timber and increase canopy spacing on Forest Service lands within the Wildland Urban Interface. These treatments will help mitigate the potential for high intensity wildfire and improve emergency travel to the many homes, special use permitted areas, and Forest Service sites adjacent to the Big Sandy trailhead. Conifer trees encroaching on aspen communities will also be removed to promote aspen regeneration for the benefit of wildlife.

The Big Sandy Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project has been reviewed and discussed publicly and is being conducted with support from the Sublette County Forest Collaborative. Those interested can access and review the project decision documents here:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/btnf/?project=64704>

For more information about the Bridger-Teton National Forest on our website at

<https://www.usda.gov/btnf/> or by following us on Facebook

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