



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**Forest Service**

Beaverhead-  
Deerlodge  
National Forest



# Schedule of Proposed Action (formerly called the "Quarterly Project List") October 2004

## **NEW FORMAT**

National forests are now all using the same database to show proposed projects undergoing environmental review. Next year, these listings will be available on the internet at one website. Until then, we'll continue mailing a summary of our projects to you and posting it at the Beaverhead-Deerlodge website.

**After the national database becomes available, you'll be able to get this information on your personal computer or through public library computers. At that point, we won't mail printed versions of this information anymore.**

[Click here for the October 2004 list.](#) [Click here for Sheep Creek Fire Salvage.](#)

If you've seen this list in the past, you'll notice some projects on previous lists don't appear on this current one. For some projects, that's because we finished the analysis, made the decision, and the appeal period ended.

In other cases, we've dropped projects from the list because we won't pursue them for the time being. Funding for the projects may not have come or we may have had to rearrange our priorities. Please call or email the person listed as the "Project Contact" for a project anytime you have a question about it.

## **Type of NEPA Documentation**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires us to analyze the effects of projects before we undertake them. Generally, after we finish the analysis, either a District Ranger or the Forest Supervisor decides how or if to proceed.

In the attached summary, you'll see two to three-letter abbreviations following a project's name.

EIS Environmental Impact Statement  
EA Environmental Assessment

DM Decision Memo

In an **Environmental Impact Statement**, we assume that a proposed activity either does or might have significant effects on the human environment. If you see “DEIS,” that means draft environmental impact statement. These are issued for public review and comment. “FEIS” means final environmental impact statement and is usually accompanied by a “Record of Decision” announces a decision.

In **Environmental Assessments** we try to find out if a proposed project has a significant effect on the human environment. If it doesn't then we write a “Decision Notice” to announce a decision based on the EA, along with a “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI).

**Decision Memos** cover activities in categories established in regulations or policies that we've found in past analyses don't have significant effects on the human environment. These are also known as “Categorical Exclusions.” Decisions made through categorical exclusions are not subject to appeal.

### **Commenting on Proposals**

#### ***At Scoping***

Each project issues a letter or “scoping notice” that asks for comments on the issues a particular analysis should consider. The scoping notice lets you know where to mail your comments and by what date.

We maintain a mailing list of people interested in particular subjects and areas of the forest. We use the list when we mail scoping notices and to find out who's interested in more information about particular projects.

Contact our Public Affairs Office at (406) 683-3984 or by email at [jdegolia@fs.fed.us](mailto:jdegolia@fs.fed.us), if you'd like to be added or dropped from the mailing list, or if you want to change what you've told us interests you.

#### ***When a “draft” is released***

Once we release an analysis for public comment, you'll have a chance to comment. We accept comments in writing and by electronic email. If you want to email your comments, you'll see instructions with the analysis about how to do that.

We now have special comment inboxes to accept electronic comments on draft analyses. For forest-level projects (the “Office” column in the project list would say “S.O.”), send comments to: [comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge@fs.fed.us)

Comments to district projects follow the same format, adding the district name at the end of the string before the @ sign, as in “[comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge-butte@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge-butte@fs.fed.us)” or “[comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge-pintler@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge-pintler@fs.fed.us).”

You **must** provide substantive comments on a project in order to appeal that project. (click here [“What About Appeals?”](#) for details.)

- We release all environmental assessments for 30 days of public comment, which the Forest Service must respond to, before we issue a decision notice. We also release “EIS's” in “draft” form for 45 days and respond to the comments we receive when we issue a “final” EIS and record of decision.

- We mail information and environmental documents on projects to anyone who expresses interest in them. You can ask for information and get documents on a project **any time** during our work on a project, not just during the comment period.
- For an Environmental Assessment: You have to have your comments postmarked or facsimile imprinted by 11:59 p.m., on the 30th calendar day following publication of the Forest Service's formal notice of a comment period. We publish these notices in the legal notice section of our local newspaper of record, *The Montana Standard*, published daily in Butte.
- For an Environmental Impact Statement: You have to have your comments postmarked or facsimile imprinted by 11:59 p.m., on the 45th calendar day following publication of the "Notice of Availability" in the *Federal Register* for the draft EIS.
- We'll keep all comments, even those postmarked after the close of the comment period, as part of the project file. All comments become a matter of public record.

#### **For More Information**

Call the District Ranger or the contact person listed for the project that interests you. (This is still the best way to stay informed about the projects that most interest you.)

#### **For the latest information on the Forest Service in Southwest Montana**

## **Call (406) 683-3913**

You'll hear a recorded message here, 24 hours a day. Call it for the latest information on project proposals and for other news of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. We revise the message on Fridays or more often if events warrant.

You can also see this list and other interesting information about the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest at our internet website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/b-d>



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