

CHAPTER 4 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

I. THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCOPING PROCESS

Public Notices and Outreach

The Legal Notice for the Main Boulder Fuel Reduction Project appeared in the Bozeman Chronicle (the paper of record) on December 8, 2002. An ad was also placed in the Big Timber Pioneer on December 6, 2002 inviting public comments on the project. A news article appeared in the December 8, 2002 addition of the Bozeman Chronicle addressing the Forest Service's plans to reduce fire danger in the Main Boulder River Corridor.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was prepared for the project and appeared in the Federal Register on November 6, 2002.

A scoping letter requesting comments on the Main Boulder Fuel Reduction Project was mailed to more than 300 individuals, organizations, and agencies in December 2002. Eighteen letters of comment were received concerning the project during the public scoping comment period.

The Main Boulder Fuel Reduction Project was shown in the Gallatin National Forest's Proposed Project Listing for the quarters beginning October 2003 and again in January and April 2004. The Proposed Project Listing was mailed to several hundred people.

Chronology of Public Participation Activities

Forest Service officials have been meeting with the Boulder River Watershed Association and providing information and updates regarding the proposed Main Boulder Fuel Reduction Project for approximately 2 ½ years: There have been over twenty such meetings with the dates of these meetings being:

9/26/01, 8/31/01, 11/28/01, 1/30/02, 2/27/02, 3/27/02, 4/24/02, 5/29/02, 9/25/02, 10/30/02, 11/27/02, 1/29/03, 2/26/03, 3/26/03, 4/30/03, 5/28/03, 9/24/03, 10/29/03, 11/26/03, 1/28/04, and 2/24/04

Forest Service officials have also been attending meetings with the Boulder River Fuels Cooperative in order to collaborate fuel reduction efforts between the Forest Service and the adjacent private and corporate landowners. These meetings took place on: 5/7/03, 6/28/03, 8/5/03, 8/27/03, 9/4/03, 9/24/03, 10/22/03, 12/17/03, 1/17/04, 1/28/04, 2/15/04, 3/4/04.

A field trip guided by Forest Service officials was given to Senator Baucus's staff, Sweet Grass County Commissioners, Sweetgrass County Road Supervisors, Boulder River Watershed Forest Health Committee members, Big Timber/Sweetgrass County Fire Chief and Captain and a representative from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition on January 16, 2003.

On May 7, 2003 a meeting was held at the American Legion Hall in Big Timber to discuss a grant proposal for the Main Boulder Watershed Association.(WBWA). Twenty-five people were present representing the WBWA, Forest Service, Beartooth RD&C, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, Sweetgrass County Disaster & Emergency Services, Sweetgrass & Park County Fire Departments, Sweetgrass County Commissioners, Sweetgrass County Planner, and the Sweetgrass County Grant Writer.

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The district ranger took Park and Sweet Grass County Commissioners on a tour of the Main Boulder proposed project area on September 11, 2003.

Forest Service officials took a representative of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation on a tour of the project area in November 2003.

On March 12, 2004, a presentation of the Main Boulder Fuel Reduction Project was given at the Montana Forestry Conference, which was located at Fairmont Hot Springs in Anaconda, Montana.

II. AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED

Listed below are those agencies, tribes, elected officials, media, and organizations who either received the 12/06/2002 scoping letter, provided consultation, were involved via other outreach processes, or who provided scoping comments. In addition to those listed below, there were approximately 250 individuals, church camps, and small businesses that received the scoping document. Locations are in Montana unless indicated otherwise.

Federal Agencies

Bureau of Land Management; Billings
NRCS; Bozeman
Regional Office Visual Specialists (Larry Blocker and Chris Ryan); Missoula
Rural Areas Development Commission; Bozeman
US Environmental Protection Agency; Helena
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Helena

State Agencies

Farm Bureau; Bozeman, Big Timber
MCAFS Land Management; Townsend
MT Dept of Transportation; Bozeman
MT Dept of HES/WQB; Helena
MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Helena
MT Environmental Info Center; Helena
MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Helena, Livingston, Columbus
MWF Wildlife Committee; Clancy

City Agencies

Big Timber Fire Department, Big Timber
City of Bozeman; Bozeman
City of Livingston; Livingston
Town of West Yellowstone; West Yellowstone
West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce; West Yellowstone

County Agencies

Gallatin Planning Office; Bozeman
Park County Conservation District, Livingston
Park County Rural Fire Department, Livingston
Sweetgrass County Recreation Assoc.; Big Timber
Sweetgrass County Department of Emergency Services, Big Timber
Sweetgrass Extension Agent; Big Timber
Sweetgrass County Road Department
Sweetgrass County Volunteer Fire Dept; Big Timber
Sweetgrass County Weed Supervisor; Big Timber

American Indian Tribes

Confederated Salish & Kootenai; Pablo
Crow Tribal Cultural Committee; Crow Agency
Crow Tribal Council; Crow Agency
Kootenai Cultural Committee; Pablo
Nez Pierce Tribe; Lapwai, ID
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Fort Hall, ID

Elected Officials

Max Baucus; MT State Senator; Bozeman
Carbon County Commissioners; Red Lodge
Conrad Burns; MT State Senator; Bozeman
Gallatin County Commissioners; Bozeman
Leif Johnson, U.S. Attorney Office; Billings
Madison County Commissioners; Virginia City
Meager County Commissioners; White Sulphur Springs
Park Conservation District, Amy Miller; Livingston
Park County Commissioners; Livingston
Dennis Rehberg; MT State Representative; Helena
Sweetgrass County Commissioners; Big Timber
Sweetgrass County Sheriff, Big Timber

Media

Bozeman Daily Chronicle; Bozeman
Big Timber Pioneer; Big Timber
High Country News; Paonia, CO
KCTZ-FOX; Bozeman
MSU Exponent, Bozeman
Scott McMillion; Livingston

Organizations

Alliance for the Wild Rockies; Missoula, Bozeman
American Wildlands; Bozeman
Bear Creek Council; Gardiner
Big Sky Snowriders; Livingston Defenders of Wildlife; Missoula
Boulder River Fuels Cooperative, Big Timber
Boulder River Watershed Association, Big Timber
Boulder Outfitter & Guide Assn; Absarokee
Cottonwood Resource Council; Big Timber
Crazy Mtn Stockgrowers; Big Timber
Ducks Unlimited; Big Timber
Greater Yellowstone Backcountry Horsemen; Billings
Ecology Center; Missoula
Gallatin Backcountry Horsemen, Bozeman
Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Assn; Bozeman
Grassroots for Multiple Use; Hamilton
MT Ecosystems Defense Council; Bozeman
MT Trail Riders Assn; Bozeman
MT Wilderness Assn, Helena, Bozeman
MT Wildlife Federation; Helena
Native Ecosystems Council; Willow Creek
Northern Plains Resource Council, Billings
Sierra Club Grizzly Ecosystems; Bozeman
Sierra Club Headwaters Group; Virginia City
Stillwater PGM Resources; Big Timber
Sweetgrass County Wool Growers; Big Timber

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Sweetgrass Recreation Assn; Big Timber
The Nature Conservancy; Helena
Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Assn; Missoula
Trout Unlimited; Livingston
UP Forest resources; Iron River
Wilderness Society; Bozeman

Logging & Wood Products Companies

Alpine Log Homes; Victor
Clark Timber Products, Ashton, ID
Cody Lumber; Cody, WY
Dan George; Clyde Park
Independent Forest Products Assn; Helena
Intermountain Forestry Industry; Cour D'Alene, ID
JD Lumber; Priest River, ID
Louisiana Pacific Corp; Belgrade
T&S Logging; Bozeman
Montana Wood Product Assn; Helena
Rod Vanover Logging; Belgrade

III. LIST OF PREPARERS

The Forest Service Employees listed in Table 4-1 below comprise the Interdisciplinary Team that conducted the Environmental Analysis and prepared the disclosure document for the project.

Table 4-1 List of Preparers

| Name | Responsibility | Years Experience |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Diana Allen | Fuels Specialist | 15 |
| Walt Allen | Cultural Resources | 22 |
| Bill Avey | District Ranger Record of Decision | 23 |
| Steve Cassani | Economics | 27 |
| Steve Christiansen | Environmental Specialist | 25 |
| Frank Cifala | Recreation/Wilderness/Roadless Specialist | 25 |
| Brent Foster | ID Team Leader | 22 |
| Roger Gowen | Silviculturist | 27 |
| Jonathan Kempff | Transportation | 21 |
| Sally Orr | Weeds/Range Specialist | 22 |
| Barb Ping | Co ID Team Leader Writer/Editor | 21 |
| Jane Ruchman | Scenery | 16 |
| Steve Schacht | Wildlife | 13 |
| Henry Shovic | Soils, GIS Analyst/Support | 29 |
| Scott Shuler | Fisheries | 16 |
| Mark Story | Hydrology, Air Quality | 28 |
| Kari Vannice | Public Information Officer | 3 |

IV. DISTRIBUTION AND REVIEW OF THE EIS'S FOR THIS PROJECT

Distribution

Availability of the DEIS was posted in the Federal Register. A legal notice was published in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle (the paper of record), stating that the DEIS is available for public review and comment. Copies of the July 2004 DEIS were mailed to persons, groups, local governments, and agencies that have expressed interest in the project. The mailing list was compiled using names and addresses from the following sources:

Parties who requested to have their names placed on the mailing list for the project;
Parties who have submitted written comments to date in the process;
Federal and State agencies consulted during preparation of the EIS

Review

Copies of this DEIS can be obtained or viewed at the following locations:

Bozeman Ranger District Office, Bozeman, MT
Big Timber Ranger District Office, Big Timber, MT

Copies of the document are also available from the following address:

USDA-Forest Service
C/o Barbara Ping
Forest Ecology Group
Bozeman Ranger District
3710 Fallon St. Suite C
Bozeman, Montana 59718
(406)-522-2570