



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Idaho Panhandle  
National Forests

Sandpoint Ranger District  
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File Code: 1950- NEPA  
Date: December 19, 2007

**SUBJECT: Gold Crown Fuels Reduction Project**

Dear Neighbors, Landowners, and Interested Citizens:

Enclosed is a scoping notice and map describing the proposed action for the Gold Crown Fuels Reduction Project. As you may recall this project is focused on reducing hazardous forest fuel accumulations on National Forest System (NFS) lands in the area commonly referred to as Gold Hill (between Bottle Bay and Sagle Slough.)

The Gold Crown Fuels Reduction Project has three primary objectives:

- To reduce wildland fuels on NFS lands and lessen the risk of a landscape fire event in the area between Bottle Bay and Sagle Slough;
- To improve the health and resilience of the residual forest stands; and
- To enhance the effectiveness of future fire suppression tactics in the area.

In order to accomplish these objectives, we are proposing to treat approximately 610 acres utilizing a combination of thinning, group selection harvests, regeneration harvest and subsequent reforestation, overstory removal and precommercial thinning of the understory, hand slashing and piling, and special treatments for rock outcrop areas. The slash and additional fuels treatment would vary, depending upon site conditions and residual stand characteristics. Methods proposed include mechanical piling (grapple-piling) and burning; machine piling of skyline corridors and burning; prescribed broadcast burning; hand piling and burning; or yarding of unmerchantable material, with piling and burning to take place at landings. (See the attached scoping notice for further details.)

Thank you for your participation as we developed this proposal. I hope you will take the time to review the enclosed proposal and provide us with your feedback. We have enclosed a comment form for your convenience. **Please submit your comments prior to January 22, 2008.**

After your comments have been considered, we will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will analyze the effects of our proposal. Once the EA is published, you will have another opportunity to comment before a decision is issued. Any comments you submit will become part of the project file.

If you have any questions as you read through the notice and prepare to comment, please contact the Project Leader, Jennifer Costich-Thompson (email: [jcostichthompson@fs.fed.us](mailto:fcostichthompson@fs.fed.us) or phone: 208-443-6811).

Sincerely,

RICHARD P. KRAMER  
District Ranger

Enclosures

