
Livingston Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
Date: November 27, 2007

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Wicked Creek Fire and Pine Creek Campground Hazard Tree Reduction

Livingston, MT...To address safety concerns for the public and Forest Service employees, the Livingston Ranger District is proposing removal of fire weakened hazard trees along Forest roads within the Wicked Creek Fire perimeter, as well as hazard and blowdown trees within the Pine Creek Campground. The Forest is asking for public input on this proposal by December 24, 2007.

The proposal includes removing hazard trees along roughly 13 miles of Forest Roads. The roads affected by this proposed activity include National Forest System roads Mill Creek #486, Dutch Road #2508, and administrative road #2508 in the Upper Mill Creek drainage. Hazard tree removal is also being proposed in dispersed campsites, and trailheads adjacent to Mill Creek Road, and on National Forest System land that is immediately adjacent to Templed Hills Bible Camp. In addition, district personnel have identified for removal dead, dying, and windthrown trees within the Pine Creek Campground that pose a hazard to the recreating public. The trees that are removed will be sold, used for firewood, or left as downed woody debris to help address soil erosion and/or other resource concerns.

"The weakened trees have a strong likelihood of falling unexpectedly, blocking and damaging roads and campsites, and putting the public and work crews at risk," said Ron Archuleta, District Ranger, Livingston Ranger District. "The only trees that will be removed are those threatening the roadways, trailheads, campsites, and camp structures such as dead, leaning, cat-faced, or unstable trees. No healthy trees will be removed."

Project implementation could begin in the spring of 2008 and would be completed before the winter of 2008. For more information regarding this project, please contact the Livingston Ranger District at (406) 222-1892.