
Bozeman Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release
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Gallatin Forest hosts Bozeman Municipal Watershed Project Coffee Dialogues

Bozeman, MT... The Gallatin National Forest invites anyone interested in the Bozeman Municipal Watershed (BMW) project to an informal coffee dialogue opportunity with the Jose Castro, Bozeman District Ranger on May 14, 16, and 22 at Eagle Mount at 6901 Goldenstein Lane in Bozeman from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

The purpose of the BMW project is to begin reducing the risk of wildfire in Bozeman's municipal watershed. This involves creating vegetative fuel conditions that would reduce the risk of excess sediment and ash reaching the municipal watershed treatment plan in the event of a wildfire. "The Forest wanted to begin a dialogue with people interested in this project before releasing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in late June," said Jose Castro, Bozeman District Ranger. "The Forest Service will provide the coffee and the opportunity to explore and discuss certain topics with anyone interested."

On Monday, May 14th the dialogue will center around Bozeman's Backyard Landscape. This discussion will include a historical perspective of the area – what it looked like 50 to 100 years ago, an overview of fire ecology in this area, and why ecosystem health affects us all. On Wednesday, May 16th the City of Bozeman and the Forest Service will lead a discussion about the city's water supply and Bozeman and Hyalite watershed's hydrologic conditions and concerns. On Tuesday, May 22 the dialogue will be about recreation and scenery including how people use this area and what matters to those who recreate there.

To learn more about the project, visit the Gallatin National Forest web-site: www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin, click on Projects and Plans, then click on Bozeman Municipal Watershed Project. For information about the coffee dialogue please contact Marna Daley at 406-587-6703.

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