

## **CHAPTER 4 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

### **4.1 THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCOPING PROCESS**

#### **Public Notices and Outreach**

A scoping letter requesting comments on the Smith Creek Vegetation Treatment Project was mailed to more than 120 individuals, organizations, and agencies on February 22, 2006. This scoping was fairly broad scale and contained a preliminary proposed action that defined broad areas of potential treatments but not actual treatment units. Seventeen letters of comment were received concerning the project during the initial public scoping comment period.

After the February scoping, the Forest Service held public meetings and met with private landowners, Park County officials, and other interested parties. In addition, Forest Service specialists conducted field reconnaissance, which also helped to further refine the proposed action. A second scoping letter regarding the project was sent to the public on September 29, 2006, which identified the proposed action and included the actual proposed treatment units. This refined scoping was sent not only to those individuals and groups that commented on the first scoping, but to the entire original mailing list. The second scoping received ten letters of comment.

The Smith Creek Vegetation Treatment Project was shown in the Gallatin National Forest's Proposed Project Listing for the quarters beginning January of 2006 through January of 2007. The Proposed Project Listings can be found on the Gallatin National Forest website under projects and plans, SOPA website.

#### **Chronology of Public Participation Activities**

After the comment period for the original scoping was complete and Forest Service specialists had an opportunity to revisit the potential treatment areas, a public meeting was held on June 29, 2006 at the Wilsall Community Center. The meeting was facilitated by the Forest Service interdisciplinary team members for the project, Bob Fry from the Park County Rural Fire Department, and JT Smith from the Northern Rocky Mountain Resource and Conservation Development Center (RC&D). Approximately 30 individuals and representatives from local groups and businesses attended this meeting. Comments and ideas regarding how much and what type of public participation the public would like was a topic of discussion at the meeting. It was determined that public field trips were desired, the number of which would be determined by the amount of public interest.

The first public field trip to the project area was held on July 9, 2006. The group visited and discussed possible treatments in the project area. Approximately twelve local landowners attended this field trip.

Another public meeting was held at the Wilsall Community center on July 16, 2006. This was mainly an informational meeting regarding how landowners can protect their homes from potential threats from wildfire. The RC&D co-sponsored this meeting with the Forest Service. Jack Cohen, a research scientist from the fire lab in Missoula, MT gave an in-depth presentation at this meeting. JT Smith from RC&D spoke about grant opportunities for private homeowners in WUI communities to conduct fuel hazard reduction projects on private lands. Approximately 12-14 homeowners from the Smith Creek area attended this meeting.

The second scoping for the project was released to the public in late September and another public meeting was held at the Clyde Park Community Center on November 6, 2006 to discuss the proposed action. Approximately 20 local landowners and small business owners attended this meeting. The district ranger presented an overview of the project. A large proposed action map was posted on the wall and the proposed treatment for each unit was discussed. The attending group asked to be included in further development of the project and be given an opportunity to provide further comments. They were assured that everyone who provided comments to either of the scopings or attended any of the public meetings would be sent a copy of the EA and would have 30 days to provide additional comments. Attendees were also offered the opportunity (when weather conditions allow and unit prescriptions have been refined) to visit the project area with the specialists and help mark sample areas with flagging so individuals are able picture what various treatment units would look like. JT Smith also offered that there are several areas with similar prescriptions that have already been treated on private land that he would be willing to take interested parties to look at.

## **4.2 AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED**

Listed below are those agencies, tribes, elected officials, media, and organizations who either received the 2/22/2006 and September 29, 2006 scoping letters, provided consultation, were involved via other outreach processes, or who provided scoping comments. In addition to those listed below, there were approximately 100 individuals and small businesses that received the scoping documents. Locations are in Montana unless indicated otherwise.

### **Federal Agencies**

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Helena  
Environmental Protection Agency, Helena

### **State Agencies**

MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Bozeman  
MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Livingston  
Northern Rockies Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Bozeman  
MWF Wildlife Committee, Clancy

**County Agencies**

Park County Rural Fire District, Livingston  
Park County Conservation District, Livingston  
Meagher County Sheriff, White Sulphur Springs

**City Agencies**

Wilsall Fire Department, Wilsall

**American Indian Tribes**

Crow Tribal Council; Crow Agency

**Elected Officials**

Max Baucus; MT State Senator, Bozeman  
Conrad Burns; MT State Senator; Bozeman  
Meagher County Commissioners, White Sulphur Springs  
Park Conservation District, Amy Miller; Livingston  
Park County Commissioners, Livingston  
Dennis Rehberg; MT State Representative, Helena

**Media**

Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Bozeman  
Scott McMillion, Livingston

**Organizations**

Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Helena, Missoula  
American Wildlands; Bozeman  
Ecosystem Defense Council, Missoula  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Bozeman  
MT Ecosystems Defense Council, Bozeman  
MT Wilderness Assn, Bozeman  
Native Ecosystems Council, Willow Creek  
Park County Environmental Council, Livingston  
Trout Unlimited, Bozeman  
Wilderness Society, Bozeman  
Wild West Institute, Missoula

**Logging & Wood Products Companies**

Cody Lumber, Cody, WY  
Myrstol Post & Pole, Livingston  
RY Timber Inc, Livingston  
Smurfit-Stone Container, Frenchtown  
Tyler Myrstol, Clyde Park

### 4.3 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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Greg Juvan, Ashley Sites	Fuels Specialists
Tom Ballard	Cultural Resources
Ron Archuleta	District Ranger Responsible Official
Pam Brown	Economics & Logging Systems
Steve Christiansen	Environmental Specialist
Wendi Urie	Recreation/Wilderness/Roadless Specialist
Barbara Ping	ID Team Leader/Writer/Editor
Mark Novak	Silviculturist
Jonathan Kempff	Transportation
Chauntelle Rock	Weeds/Range Specialist
Jane Ruchman	Visuals
Rachel Feigley	Wildlife
Henry Shovic	Soils
Scot Shuler	Fisheries
Mark Story	Hydrology, Air Quality
Dusty Rixford	Public Information Officer
Steve Martell	Logging Systems
Colleen Stein	Maps

#### **4.4 DISTRIBUTION AND REVIEW OF THE EA FOR THIS PROJECT**

##### **Distribution**

A legal notice was published in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle (the paper of record), stating that the EA is available for public review and comment, starting the official appeal period. Copies of the May 2007 EA 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;
- Parties who attended public meetings and/or field trips for the project.
- Federal and State agencies consulted during preparation of the EA

A news release regarding the project was given to the Bozeman Chronicle and the Livingston Enterprise.

##### **Review**

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

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

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

USDA-Forest Service  
C/o Barbara Ping  
East Zone ID Team Leader/Writer/Editor  
Bozeman Ranger District  
3710 Fallon St. Suite C  
Bozeman, Montana 59718  
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