



News
Release

United States
Department of
Lewis and Clark National Forest
Judith Ranger
P.O. Box 484
Stanford, MT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Plagenz
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JUDITH DISTRICT RANGER SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT

Judith Ranger District staff is proposing to commercially thin approximately 770 acres and prescribe burn approximately 740 acres within the lower Ettien Ridge area in Judith Basin County, Township 12 North, Range 11 East, portions of Sections 1, 2 and 3, and Township 13N, Range 11E, portions of sections 34 and 35.

Currently, there are high loadings of fuel and weakening forest conditions as indicated by pine beetle mortality in the Ettien Ridge area. These proposed activities will reduce hazardous fuels. If not treated, forest lands in the Ettien Ridge area could experience a large stand replacement fire which would have a high mortality on existing vegetation and result in negative effects on soils, wildlife, range, and public use.

Public meetings will be held to discuss this project in more detail January 11, at 7 p.m., Utica Clubhouse and January 19, 7 p.m. at the Forest Service office in Stanford. The Judith District Ranger is seeking information and comments from individuals, organizations and agencies interested in or affected by this proposal. To be of value to the deciding officer's decision, comments are requested to be postmarked by **February 4, 2006**. Comments can be mailed to the Judith Ranger District, Attn: Ettien Ridge Fuels Reduction Project, P.O. Box 484, Stanford, MT 59479.

For more information, contact Matt Plagenz (mplagenaz@fs.fed.us) at the Judith Ranger District office (406) 566-2292.

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