



News Release

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Forest Service
Lewis and Clark National Forest
P.O. Box 869
Great Falls, MT 59403-0869

www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/news/index.shtml

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tina Lanier
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MONARCH-NEIHART DRAFT DECISION AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

Belt Creek District Ranger Tina Lanier is requesting public comments on a draft decision memo for the Monarch-Neihart Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project now available for a 30-day public review prior to issuing a final decision on this project. The draft decision memo can be reviewed by going to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/projects/>.

This project includes treatment of vegetation on approximately 510 acres within the wildland-urban interface near the communities of Monarch and Neihart, Montana, using a combination of mechanical tree removal, hand slashing and prescribed fire. Timber material will be helicopter yarded on about 150 acres, 67 acres will be tractor yarded, and 293 acres will be manually/mechanically treated (i.e. slashed) with material left on site to be burned under appropriate prescriptions. No new roads or permanent infrastructure will be constructed to implement this project. No herbicide or pesticide use is proposed. Some hazard trees and other vegetation will be slashed, piled and burned, or broadcast burned. The project includes design criteria and mitigation measures to reduce unacceptable environmental impacts to natural resources including soils, water and wildlife.

Comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of legal notice in the *Great Falls Tribune*. Written comments may be sent to: Tina Lanier, District Ranger, 4234 US Highway 89, Neihart, Montana, 59465. Electronic comments may be submitted to: comments-northern-lewisclark-belt-creek@fs.fed.us.

For more information, call Ranger Lanier at (406) 236-5511.

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