



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Medicine Bow – Routt
National Forests
and Thunder Basin
National Grassland

Parks Ranger District
100 Main Street
PO Box 158
Walden, CO 80480-0158
970-723-8204
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr>

File Code: 1950-1

Date: July 21, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a copy of an Environmental Assessment (EA) the Forest Service has prepared to disclose the environmental effects of implementing treatments to manage forest vegetation affected by the bark beetle epidemics on National Forest lands within the Owl Mountain North Analysis Area. The analysis area is located in the southeast part of Jackson County, approximately 22 miles southeast of Walden, Colorado, on the Parks Ranger District. The Responsible Official is Michael A. Wright, Parks District Ranger.

The **Owl Mountain North Project** is an authorized project as defined under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003, Title I, Sec.102 (a)(4). HFRA projects are subject to 36 CFR, Part 218, Subpart A, Section 218.1, which established a pre-decisional administrative review (“objection”) process for proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects (Federal Register; Vol. 69, No. 6; Friday, January 9, 2004). The Responsible Official may not issue a decision concerning an authorized project until the Reviewing Officer has responded to all pending objections; however, Alternative 2 as described in the EA is the preferred alternative.

The objection process is the sole means by which administrative review of a proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project on National Forest System land may be sought. These authorized projects are not subject to the notice, comment, and appeal provisions set forth in part 215 of this chapter (Sec. 218.3).

An objection, including attachments, must be filed (regular mail, fax, e-mail, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service) with the appropriate Reviewing Officer within 30 days of the date of publication of the legal notice for the objection process. The date of the legal notice in the *Jackson County Star* is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection (Sec. 218.9(a)) and those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source (Sec. 218.4(b)(2)(iii)). Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted written comments specific to the proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project during scoping or other opportunity for public comment (Sec. 218.6(a)).



To file an objection, send it to:

Objection Reviewing Officer
Mary Peterson, Forest Supervisor
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
2468 Jackson Street
Laramie, WY 82070
Fax: (307) 745-2398,
E-mail (rtf, word): appeals-rocky-mountain-medicine-bow-routt@fs.fed.us
Hand-delivered: Business hours 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Mon.-Fri. (exclude holidays).

Objections must be filed with the Reviewing Officer in writing. All objections shall be open to public inspection during the objection process. It is the objector's responsibility to provide sufficient narrative description of those aspects of the proposed project being addressed, specific issues related to the project, and suggested remedies that would resolve the objection. Incorporation of documents by reference shall not be allowed. At a minimum, an objection must include the following (Sec. 218.7(d)):

- 1) Objector's name and address (Sec. 218.2), with a telephone number, if available;
- 2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- 3) When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (Sec. 218.2). Verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request;
- 4) The name of the proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name of the National Forest and/or Ranger District on which the proposed project will be implemented.

The Responsible Official may not issue a decision concerning an authorized project until the Reviewing Officer has responded to all pending objections. When no objection is filed within the 30-day time period, the Reviewing Officer shall notify the Responsible Official, and approval of the authorized project may occur on, but not before, the fifth business day following the end of the objection-filing period (Sec. 218.11).

Copies of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are available upon request from the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District Office, PO Box 249, Saratoga WY 82331, (307) 326-5258, or can be found on the Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/projects/timber/index/shtml.

For additional information about this project, please contact Joanne Sanfilippo, Project Leader, at (307) 326-2518, or e-mail jmsanfilippo@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for your interest in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael A. Wright
MICHAEL A. WRIGHT
District Ranger