
Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Lorette Ray, (406) 587-6703

Gallatin National Forest Issues Main Boulder Draft Supplemental EIS

The Gallatin National Forest has released copies of the Main Boulder Fuels Reduction Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for public review and comment. The Draft SEIS was prepared in response to Regional Forester Abigail Kimbell's recent reversal of the January 2005 Record of Decision. The reversal was based upon a procedural error related to the Northern goshawk analyses.

The Main Boulder Fuels Reduction Project is located along the Main Boulder River corridor, some 30 miles southwest of Big Timber, MT, in Sweet Grass and Park Counties. According to Becki Heath, Forest Supervisor of the Gallatin National Forest, "We have corrected the documentation as it relates to the goshawk analyses, and we are moving forward with the Supplemental document. Collaboration continues to be a key cornerstone of this project, and we invite the public to give us comments during a 45-day comment period."

Heath added that there are three primary goals for the project: 1) provide for public and firefighter safety by minimizing the probability and effects of future fire starts; 2) extend the potential time available for evacuation in the event of a wildfire; and 3) reduce fuel loadings in the Main Boulder River corridor, where possible.

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10 East Babcock Ave., PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

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The original Record of Decision called for removing hazardous fuels on up to 2,500 acres on National Forest System lands outside of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness area. A Record of Decision and Final Supplemental EIS is expected this fall.

For more information, please visit: http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/?page=projects/main_boulder or call the Big Timber Ranger Station at (406) 932-5155.

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