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# Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release  
Date: September 22, 2006

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## **Forest Service to Reduce Hazardous Fuels near the Taylor Fork**

Bill Queen, Hebgen Lake District Ranger, will issue a decision to implement the Taylor Fork Fuels Reduction Project on Monday, September 25, 2006. The project is located on the Gallatin National Forest approximately 10 miles south of Big Sky, Montana.

According to Queen, "Wildland fuel reduction in the wildland urban interface continues to be a national, regional and local priority. The Taylor Fork fuel reduction project is intended to reduce the threat to life and property adjacent to the guest ranches in the project area."

Fuel reduction treatments will reduce the risk of crown fire and wildland fire spread by reducing crown closure and removal of dead and down fuels.

The Taylor Fork Fuels Reduction project includes these activities:

- Thinning of small trees (less than 4 inches in diameter) on about 210 acres in mixed age lodgepole pine forest with continuous ladder fuel;
- Commercial thinning on approximately 155 acres of dense forest stands with continuous crown canopy and ladder fuels.

Associated activities include project specific mitigation, and piling and burning or removal of fuels off site for alternate utilization such as chipping. Implementation will occur over the next five to seven years beginning in the fall of 2006.



Copies of the Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact will be available on September 25 on the internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin> (click on "Projects and Plans" on the left side of the menu). For additional information on the project, please call Teri Seth, Team Leader at 406-522-2539. To obtain printed copies of the decision document, contact the District office in West Yellowstone or Bozeman.

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