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# Gardiner Ranger District News Release



For Immediate Release  
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## Vegetation Restoration Project in Gardiner Basin Proposed

**Gardiner, MT...** The Forest Service proposes to restore native plant communities to Cutler Meadows, a 155 acre agricultural field that was acquired from the Royal Teton Ranch through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in 1999. The Forest is asking for public comments during the project scoping period, which will end April 30, 2006.

The project site is located just south of Yankee Jim Canyon, adjacent to the Yellowstone River in the Gardiner Basin, approximately 13 miles north of Gardiner, Montana. Cutler Meadows was farmed throughout the twentieth century but has not been farmed since 1999. Native vegetation has disappeared and a variety of weeds have invaded the site. The primary purpose of this project is to restore native plants to a former agricultural field to enhance species diversity, reduce noxious weeds and provide benefits to grazing ungulates.

In April, 2005, Yellowstone National Park, the Gallatin National Forest, and the Center for Invasive Plant Management at Montana State University sponsored the Gardiner Basin Restoration Workshop. A group of restoration experts from around the west convened to develop recommendations for a restoration plan for acquired properties within the Gardiner Basin. Those recommendations will be implemented at Cutler Meadows.

“We propose to plow, seed, irrigate and fence Cutler Meadows in an effort to restore native plants,” said Ken Britton, Gardiner District Ranger. “We would irrigate right before seeding and keep the fence erected until the young plants are established. We hope to utilize volunteers in as many aspects of the project as we can.”

For more information regarding this project, please contact Pat Hoppe, Range Technician on the Gardiner District or Ken Britton, Gardiner District Ranger (406) 848-7375. Additional information can be found on the Gallatin Forest website at [www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin).

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