
Hebgen Lake Ranger District News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Teri Seth (406) 522-2539
Marianne Baumberger (406) 587-6703

Date: April 21, 2008

Decision Made By Forest Service On Lonesome Wood Vegetation Management Project

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT..... Hebgen Lake District Ranger, Bill Queen announced today his decision to implement the Lonesome Wood Vegetation Management Project. Vegetation treatments are focused in the wildland urban interface on the west side of Hebgen Lake near the community of West Yellowstone, MT. Implementation of the decision will reduce fire behavior in the wildland urban interface on the west side of Hebgen Lake and along the Hebgen Lake Road evacuation route. The project will lower the potential risk of intense crown fire and fire spread by thinning trees and removing dead and down fuel. Work on the project could start as early as this summer.

The project has three primary focuses: reducing wildland fuels in the wildland urban interface (WUI); providing an adequate evacuation route along the Hebgen Lake Road for forest users, homeowners, business owners and their customers and firefighters and emergency vehicles; and maintaining and enhancing the aspen forest in the project area. The project implements national, regional and Forest priorities established under the National Fire Plan.

According to District Ranger Bill Queen, "We have strong support from many adjacent landowners that are anxious for the Forest Service to begin fuel hazard reduction work on this project. In fact, in response to the public involvement outreach for this project, several landowners have either initiated defensible space work or improved the work they have already finished." Homeowners are already working with the Northern Rocky Mountain Rural Community and Development to acquire matching funds to complete work on their property. This project supports the Gallatin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan that identifies Wildland Urban Interface areas at risk from wildland fire within Gallatin County.

The west side of Hebgen Lake is an area rich in diversity and is dearly loved by residents and those that recreate in the area. The decision balances the priority for public safety while minimizing impacts to wildlife and potential disruption of use by recreationists, residents and business clients. Copies of the Decision Notice & FONSI are available on the internet at <http://fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>, then go to 'Projects & Plans'. Paper copies of the DN and FONSI are available at the Hebgen Lake Ranger District at (406) 823-6961 or visit the office at 331 Hwy 191 N. West Yellowstone, MT or call Teri Seth—(406) 522-2520.

- FS -



Highway 191, PO Box 520, West Yellowstone, MT 59758
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>