

Dear Interested Party:

Attached is a description of the proposed action for Washakie Salvage Treatment Project on the Pinedale Ranger District. This letter serves two purposes. The first is to request your input regarding the scope of the analysis that we will conduct in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act. The second purpose is to provide you with a description of the proposed action so you may submit formal comments pursuant to the Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures at 36 CFR 215. Please provide your comments on this action as described below.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest has made a preliminary assessment that this action falls within a category of action listed in the Forest Service NEPA Handbook (FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30) that is excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS and that no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude use of the category. The specific category is 31.2(13), "Salvage of dead and/or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than ½ mile of temporary road construction."

This comment period provides those interested in or affected by these projects an opportunity to make their concerns known. It is being provided pursuant to the July 2 and September 16, 2005, orders issued by the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Case No. CIV F-03-6386JKS. Those who provide timely comments will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations. A copy of the description of the proposed action will be available at [www.fs.fed.us/r4/btnf/projects](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/btnf/projects). Additional information regarding this project can be obtained from Pinedale Ranger District.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 5 days.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of the legal notice of the opportunity to comment in the Casper Star-Tribune. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. You should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Comments must be submitted to: Pinedale District Ranger, Pinedale Ranger District, 29 East Fremont Lake Road, P.O. Box 220, Pinedale, WY, 82941-0220, 307-367-4326, fax: 307-367-5750. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's (Pinedale District Ranger) office during normal business hours via telephone or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to [comments-intermtn-bridger-teton-pinedale@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-bridger-teton-pinedale@fs.fed.us) . Comments must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Only those who submit timely comments will be eligible to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215.