



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Norwood  
Ranger District

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**File Code:** 1950-1

**Date:** August 15, 2008

Greetings:

We are seeking comments on a proposal to conduct hazardous fuels reduction and commercial and pre-commercial thinning in ponderosa pine and pine-oak stands on the Norwood Ranger District of the Uncompahgre National Forest. The objective of the proposal is to reduce wildfire risk to the community and residents of Sanborn Park, Colorado and along the electrical transmission lines in the area. To be most helpful, comments regarding this proposal should be received before the end of the comment period on September 19, 2008. Please refer to the Public Involvement section of the scoping notice for additional information about submitting comments.

The Sanborn Park-Western Power Line Wildland Urban Interface Project is located within the Horsefly Creek and Beaver/ McKenzie Creek 5<sup>th</sup> Hydraulic Unit Code watersheds. A scoping notice summarizing the proposed action is enclosed. There is also a diagram of electrical transmission line clearance requirements to assist in understanding vegetation maintenance standards in the wire zone–border zone area of the transmission line and a project area map.

The Norwood Ranger District is preparing an Environmental Assessment and proposing this project as an authorized hazardous fuels reduction project utilizing the appropriate tools under Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003. The purpose of this Act is to expedite hazardous fuels reduction and forest-restoration projects on Federal lands at risk of wildland fire or insect and disease epidemics. The Act provides for expedited procedures to complete project planning and requires an emphasis on collaboration with local communities.

This opportunity to comment will serve as scoping and opportunity for public comment as described in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

I appreciate your interest and involvement in the management of the Norwood Ranger District. If you have questions, please feel free to contact John Moore at (970) 874-6696 or, comments-rocky-mountain-gmug@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Judy Schutza*  
JUDY SCHUTZA  
District Ranger

