



File Code: 1950

Date: December 18, 2019

We are writing to request your input on the proposed **Frozen Moose Project**. The project area is on National Forest System lands from Red Meadow Creek to the Canadian Border. The project area includes Red Meadow Creek, Moose Creek, Whale Creek, Trail Creek, and areas along the North Fork of the Flathead River.

You are receiving this letter because you own land near the project area or may have interest in the project. The interdisciplinary team used information gathered from the public at the 2019 North Fork Interlocal meeting, additional public contacts, and field reviews to develop this proposed action.

Following field review of the project area and discussion with members of the public, we have identified the following purposes and needs for action in the project area:

- Reduce tree densities and fuel loadings within the wildland-urban interface to result in less intense fire behavior near communities and facilitate safe wildland fire operations.
- Improve the diversity and resilience of vegetative communities and associated wildlife habitat.
- Maintain and improve aquatic ecosystems.
- Provide a mix of forest products to contribute to economic sustainability, providing jobs and income to local economies.

We are proposing several types of management actions to meet the purpose and need. These proposals include commercial vegetation treatment on 3,552 acres and noncommercial vegetation treatments on 4,630 acres. The proposed vegetation treatments include both commercial and precommercial thinning to reduce tree densities within the wildland-urban interface and improve resilience of vegetative communities to disturbances such as fire or drought. To conduct these vegetation treatments, we are proposing to construct temporary roads and reconstruct historical roads, but public motorized access will not change. We are also proposing understory removal and underburning to reduce fuel loading within the wildland-urban interface. Some of these treatments in the wildland-urban interface also fall within an inventoried roadless area and the wild and scenic river corridor.

In higher elevations, within a recommended wilderness area, we are proposing prescribed burning and whitebark pine restoration activities.

The proposal also includes the replacement and removal of culverts on roads within the project area to improve aquatic ecosystems.

Maps of the proposed action and detailed descriptions of activities can be accessed at the project Web site: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57310. Hard copies of the proposed action documents are available by request or can be reviewed at the Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger Station (10 Hungry Horse Drive, Hungry Horse, MT, 59919).

Your comments on the proposed action are important because we will consider them as we refine our proposed activities, develop alternatives, and conduct our environmental analysis. Please provide comments on the proposed action by **January 17, 2020**. If you do not have any site-specific comments at this time, but would like to receive information about the project, please let us know so we can add you to the contact list. We will conduct an environmental analysis this winter, which will be available for additional public comment, and we are working towards a final decision by winter 2020.



Because of the large amount of research regarding forestry practices and methods, if you cite literature in your comments, please provide us with a complete bibliography and a copy of the referenced materials.

Electronic input may be submitted to: comments-northern-flathead-hungry-horse-glacier-view@usda.gov with "Frozen Moose Project" in the subject line. Acceptable formats include MS Word, RTF, or PDF.

Please send written input to:

Robert Davies, District Ranger
Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District
P.O. Box 190340
Hungry Horse, MT 59919

Oral comments can be provided at the Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger Station during normal business hours, via telephone, or in person. Normal business hours are 8:00 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday, excluding holidays.

Input received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record, and will be available for public inspection.

Please contact Sarah Canepa, project team leader, if you would like more information about the project at (406) 387-3800 or sarah.canepa@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Davies".

ROBERT DAVIES
Hungry Horse-Glacier View District Ranger