



File Code: 1950
Date: June 7, 2018

Dear Interested Party,

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Gold Butterfly Project is available for review and comment. You can read the document on the Bitterroot National Forest website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51486> or you may request a paper or CD version from the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's Office or Stevensville Ranger District.

The project is located east of Corvallis, MT between St. Clair Creek to the south and Burnt Fork Creek to the north and encompasses 55,147 acres. The project area boundary includes a portion of the Stony Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area, however, no actions are proposed within the roadless area boundary.

The Gold Butterfly Project DEIS describes the effects of two action alternatives and the no action alternative. The purpose of the project is to improve forest resilience to insects, disease, and fire through commercial and non-commercial timber harvest and prescribed fire; to reduce chronic sediment sources in the Willow Creek watershed; to restore or improve key habitats including meadows, aspen, and whitebark pine; and to provide timber products and related jobs.

The Forest Service has prepared this DEIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), as amended in 2014. A portion of the project is proposed to receive vegetation treatments designed to reduce fuels, in accordance with HFRA Title I. The Bitterroot Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2006) identifies much of the project area as high priority for fuels reduction in the wildlife-urban interface. Approximately 5,682 acres of proposed treatment fall within the WUI. Approximately 6,746 acres of the proposed treatment areas are within the insect and disease area designated under HFRA Title VI. This area is affected by mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir bark beetle, Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe, and western spruce budworm to various degrees. The breakdown of treatment acres by alternatives is:

	Commercial Harvest	Non-commercial Harvest	Prescribed Fire
Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)	5,722	7,130	4,854
Alternative 3	3,342	3,228	2,581

Note: total treated area is not the sum of total commercial, non-commercial, and prescribed fire. Several types of treatment occur in the same units.

Forest plan amendments for elk habitat effectiveness and elk thermal cover are proposed for both action alternatives.



The opportunity to comment on the DEIS ends 45 days following the date of publication of the notice of availability (36 CFR 218.25(a)(ii)). The notice of availability is anticipated to be published in the Federal Register on June 15, 2018. Only individuals or organizations who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during a public comment period established by the Responsible Official are eligible to file an objection.

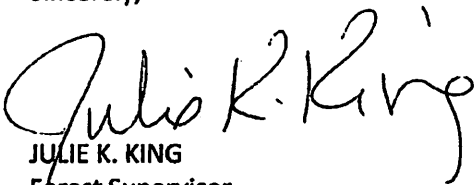
The Responsible Official for this project is Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor, Julie K. King. Comments may be submitted to the Responsible Official by the following methods:

Mailed to or hand-delivered to:	Faxed to:	E-mailed to:
Bitterroot National Forest Julie King, Responsible Official Gold Butterfly Project 1801 N. First St. Hamilton, MT 59840-3114	406-363-7159 Attn: Julie King, Responsible Official Subject: Comments - Gold Butterfly Project	<u>comments-northern-bitterroot-stevensville@fs.fed.us</u> Please put "Comments - Gold Butterfly Projects" in the subject line. An automated response should confirm your electronic comment has been received.

Names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of people submitting comments will be included as part of the public record.

For more information or questions concerning this project or the comment process, please contact Tami Sabol, Stevensville District Ranger, 406-777-5461, 88 Main Street, Stevensville, MT 59870 or Jeff Shearer, Gold Butterfly Project Interdisciplinary Team Leader, 406-375-2608.

Sincerely,


JULIE K. KING
Forest Supervisor

Glenda Wiles

From: Fox, Amy V -FS <amyvfox@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Sunday, June 10, 2018 11:34 AM
Subject: RE: Gold Butterfly Project - Draft Environmental Impact Statement Now Available

To whom it may concern,

It was brought to my attention that the hyperlink in this e-mail doesn't work. My apologies for the problem.

Please try this hyperlink: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51486>

Click on the 'Analysis' tab to access the documents.

(If for some reason, that hyperlink still doesn't work, please try copying and pasting the address directly to into your browser).

Amy

Amy V. Fox
Environmental Coordinator
Forest Service
Bitterroot National Forest
p: 406-363-7120
f: 406-363-7106
amyvfox@fs.fed.us

1801 N. First Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
www.fs.fed.us

Caring for the land and
serving people



From: Fox, Amy V -FS
Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018 4:36 PM
Subject: Gold Butterfly Project - Draft Environmental Impact Statement Now Available

Dear Interested Party,

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Bitterroot National Forest	406-363-7159 Attn: Julie King, Responsible Official	comments-northern-bitterroot-stevensville@fs.fed.us

Julie King,
Responsible
Official
Gold Butterfly
Project
1801 N. First St.
Hamilton,
MT 59840-3114

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Sincerely,

/s/ Julie K. King
JULIE K. KING
Forest Supervisor

<< File: Gold Butterfly Project - DEIS Availability Letter.pdf >>

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Object:
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