

Glenda Wiles

From: Lubke, Joni M -FS <jmlubke@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 11:02 AM
Subject: Bitterroot NF Press Release - Gold Butterfly Project Public Meeting
Attachments: Gold Butterfly Public Meeting.docx

Gold Butterfly Project - Public Open House
Tuesday, July 10th 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Bitterroot River Inn, Montana Room in Hamilton, MT

Hamilton, MT (June 27, 2018) - The Bitterroot National Forest has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Gold Butterfly Project, a proposed vegetation management and fuels reduction project in the Sapphire Mountains east of Corvallis. The project is located on the Stevensville and Darby Ranger Districts between St. Clair Creek to the south and Burnt Fork Creek to the north. The public is invited to attend a public open house on **Tuesday, July 10th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Bitterroot River Inn, Montana Room** in Hamilton, MT. Forest Service personnel will be available to answer questions about the project and there will be maps available for viewing.

Objectives of the project include:

- Improve forest resilience to natural disturbances (fire, insects, and diseases).
- Reduce chronic sediment sources in Willow Creek watershed to improve water quality and bull trout habitat.
- Restore or improve key habitats including meadows, aspen, and whitebark pine.
- Manage timber to provide forest products, jobs and income to local communities.

Proposed treatments include commercial timber harvest, non-commercial thinning, and prescribed burning to improve forest health.

Approximately 9,500 acres of the project have been designated an insect and disease treatment area due to dense pockets of dead and dying trees. The area is impacted by mountain pine beetle, Douglas-fir bark beetle and dwarf mistletoe and western spruce budworm damage.

To learn more about the project and to view maps visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51486>. These documents are also available in paper or CD formats upon request. Public comments are due by July 30, 2018.

For more information or questions concerning the project, contact Tami Sabol, Stevensville District Ranger at (406) 777-5461 or tjsabol@fs.fed.us or Jeff Shearer, Gold Butterfly Project Team Leader at (406) 375-2608 or jeffreyshearer@fs.fed.us

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