



File Code: 1950
Date: September 12, 2018

Dear Interested Party,

The Bitterroot National Forest invites you to attend a public open house on Thursday, September 27th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the West Fork Volunteer Fire Department at 5901 West Fork Road in Darby, MT. The Forest is early in the planning stages of a new project in the Mud Creek watershed and portions of the Nelson Lake, Lower Blue Joint, and Painted Rocks watersheds on the West Fork Ranger District.

Forest staff have identified a variety of opportunities both within and outside the Wildland Urban Interface for an integrated project to improve conditions related to hazardous fuels, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational infrastructure, resilience to insect and disease, and roads. While broad level opportunities have been identified, a project purpose and need and proposed actions have not been developed. Forest staff have spent the past several months evaluating existing condition of resources within the project area. We are inviting you to participate early in the process by discussing and asking questions on conditions of the project area with Forest staff and sharing your ideas and concerns.

In addition to the public open house, we will be offering a field trip to the project area on Friday, October 12th. The field trip will consist of several stops in a portion of the project area where Forest staff will talk about conditions on the ground and the need for treatment. The field trip will meet at the West Fork Ranger Station at 9:30 AM prior to departing for the project area. We ask that you RSVP with Jeff Shearer (406-375-2608; jeffreyshearer@fs.fed.us) by October 9th if you would like to attend the field trip.

If you would like to receive information on the project in the future but are unable to attend either the open house or field trip, contact Jeff Shearer (contact listed above) or Seth Carbonari, West Fork District Ranger, at 406-821-3269.

Sincerely,

Seth A Carbonari
SETH CARBONARI
District Ranger



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