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Legal Notice
STONEWALL VEGETATION PROJECT
USDA FOREST SERVICE
DEIS Comment Period

Opportunity to Comment on the Stonewall Vegetation Project DEIS:
The Helena National Forest, Lincoln Ranger District has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Stonewall Vegetation Project. Three alternatives, including a no-action alternative, are analyzed in the DEIS. The project area is located about three miles north and four miles west of the community of Lincoln, MT and includes Sucker, Liverpool, Stonewall, Beaver Creeks and Lincoln Gulch.

The proposed management actions are a combination of commercial and non-commercial activities including regeneration harvest, intermediate harvest, precommercial thinning, and prescribed burning to promote a mix of vegetation composition and structure across the landscape and reduce fuels. About five miles of road would be built then obliterated immediately following tree removal. This proposal includes using prescribed fire and tree slashing in two roadless areas (Bear Marshall Scapegoat Swan and Lincoln Gulch). Commercial harvest and road construction would not occur in the two roadless areas.

It has been determined that a site-specific Forest Plan amendment would be necessary for Big Game Standards 3 and 4a. Currently, of the two elk herd units (Beaver and Keep Cool Creeks) included with this project, only the Forest Plan Standard for elk summer range hiding cover in the Beaver Creek herd unit is met. Treatments in both action alternatives would reduce wildlife habitats below Big Game Standards 3 and 4a (Forest Plan II/17) for both herd units.

The responsible official is Kevin Riordan, Forest Supervisor of the Helena National Forest.

The DEIS is available for review at the Forest Supervisor's Office of the Helena National Forest at 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena MT 59602 and the Lincoln Ranger District at 1569 Highway 200, Lincoln, MT 59639. Both the Lewis & Clark Library in Helena MT and the Lincoln Community Library in Lincoln MT have copies to review for your convenience. The DEIS is also posted on the Forest webpage at www.fs.fed.us/r1/helena/projects.

How to Comment and Timeframe:
The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability for this DEIS in the Federal Register on Friday May 3, 2013. Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.25, comments on this DEIS will be accepted for 45 days beginning on the first day after the date of publication in the Federal Register. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday; comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day.

This project is subject to the Project-Level Predecisional Administrative Review Process (commonly called the Objection process) 36 CFR 218, subparts A & B. Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.5) who submit timely, specific written comments about this proposed project or activity during this or any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection. Other eligibility requirements are defined by 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments. Individual members of an organization, Tribe or other entity must submit their own individual comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25(a)(4). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Specific written comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2).

Submit comments to Amber Kamps, Lincoln District Ranger, by one of the following methods; mail: 1569 Highway 200, Lincoln, MT 59639; facsimile: 406-362-4253; or email: comments-northern-helena-lincoln@fs.fed.us (please put "Stonewall DEIS" on the subject line). Office hours, for those who wish to hand deliver their comments, are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday (except Federal holidays). Acceptable formats for electronic comments are text or html e-mail, Adobe portable document format, and formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications. For additional information, call Amber Kamps at (406)362-7000.

May 6, 2013