



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Coeur d'Alene Field Office
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815



In Reply Refer To:
5100 (IDC010)

April 3, 2009

Dear Interested Public:

I would like to take this opportunity to share information and solicit comments on the Filly Prescribed Burn that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Coeur d'Alene Field Office is proposing. This project is intended to meet two objectives: 1) Improve the health and vigor of mature ponderosa pine stands within the project area and 2) return these stands to their historic structure and composition of a dry conifer habitat type.

Project Location

Although the project is bound by BLM lands on all four sides, an approximate location would be eight miles northeast of Harrison, ID. The project area is approximately 55 acres. The legal description is Township 48 North, Range 3 West, Section 23: NE1/4.

Purpose of and Need for the Action

The primary purpose of the proposed action is to return ponderosa pine to its historic distribution and improve its dominance in the stand. Due to the absence of fire, shade tolerant species (Douglas fir and grand fir) are starting to encroach into the stands. If the shade tolerant species are allowed to perpetuate, the fire regime will change from a low intensity understory burn to a stand replacing crown fire. This extreme fire behavior poses a greater risk to any nearby residences and greatly reduces containment actions by firefighters.

Proposed Action

Conduct an understory burn that maintains larger ponderosa pine while reducing seedling/sapling ponderosa pine, grand fir and Douglas fir. Allow the fire to burn in areas with heavier fuel loads, while areas with light fuel loads might not burn at all. Crown fires should be limited to individual trees. This would allow fire to perform its natural ecological function within this ponderosa pine system.

The existing closed logging roads will be used as fire lines to minimize the need for construction of additional fire lines.

How to Participate and Submit Comments

Please send your written comments by April 30th, 2009 to the Bureau of Land Management, Coeur d'Alene Field Office, 3815 N. Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815 or email your comments to kpindel@blm.gov.

When submitting comments please include your name, address, telephone number and the organization you represent (if any); the title of the proposed project; and facts and reasons specific to this proposal. Comments received on the proposed project including names and addresses will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection.

Contact: For more information concerning the Filly Prescribed Fire Project, you may contact Kurt Pindel at (208) 769-5015 or Kurt Pavlat at (208) 769-5038.

Sincerely,

/s/ Eric R. Thomson

Eric R. Thomson
Field Manager