

NEPA projects



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Gallatin National Forest

Supervisor's Office
10 East Babcock
P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

File Code: 1950-1
Date: April 7, 2003

Amy Mall
Natural Resources Defense Council
1200 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Mall,

This letter is in response to your request to confirm that no monitoring documentation exists because implementation of the *Gallatin Base Project* has not been completed. This project, which is listed in the USDA Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Database, includes the Deer Creek Prescribed Burn project and the Packsaddle Butte Multiple Resource project. As displayed in the Hazardous Fuels Database, approximately 600 acres of mechanical treatment and up to 400 acres of prescribed fire remain to be treated at this time.

The Deer Creek Prescribed Burn project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice was signed in 1999, with implementation occurring over a 12-year period. The Packsaddle Butte EA/DN was signed in 1998, with implementation occurring over a 6-year period. Julie Shea recently provided information on the monitoring plans for both projects (letter dated 01/15/2003). Post-treatment monitoring has begun on the areas that have been treated to-date. However, conclusive information is not available at this time.

As requested, you will be notified of the monitoring results for these two projects.

Sincerely,

REBECCA HEATH
Forest Supervisor

Cc: William Avey, Big Timber District Ranger





February 26, 2003

Julie Shea
Fire/Fuels Planner
Gallatin National Forest
10 East Babcock
P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

RE: Request for documentation regarding the Gallatin Base project, including the Deer Creeks Prescribed Burn Project and the Packsaddle Butte Multiple Resource Project.

Dear Ms. Shea:

I am writing in regard to the project referenced above and included in the spreadsheet of hazardous fuels data for the Notice of Proposed National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures published in the Federal Register on December 16, 2002. This spreadsheet is posted at: www.fs.fed.us/emc/hfi/data.xls.

Because of the short time period the Forest Service provided for the public to comment on these proposed changes, the intervening holidays, and the extremely cursory record information the agency made publicly available, we telephoned your office to ask for any post-implementation documentation you have for the spreadsheet's report on actual impacts from the above-referenced project. This letter is to confirm your response that such documentation does not exist because the project is not yet complete. Please let us know immediately by phone or fax if this is not the case. We also ask that you supply us with any such documentation that is produced or uncovered in the future.

If you should phone and not reach me immediately, please also try my colleague, Nathaniel Lawrence, at 360-570-9309. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Amy Mall



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10 East Babcock
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File Code: 1950/5100-1

Date: January 15, 2003

Route To:

Subject: Natural Resources Defense Council Information Request, January 14, 2003
- Specifically requesting the mitigation and monitoring plans described in the environmental documentation and decisions for projects listed in the USFS/DOI Fuels Database under the title 'Gallatin Base'

To: Amy Mall, Natural Resources Defense Council

Dear Ms. Mall:

I have enclosed the documentation you requested on January 14, 2003, concerning a project listed in the USDA Forest Service/DOI Fuels Database. The 'Gallatin Base' project includes the Deer Creeks Prescribed Burn Project Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice (2000) and the Packsaddle Butte Multiple Resource Project EA/DN (1998). Specifically, you asked for the *mitigation and monitoring plan sections of the environmental documents* for these two projects. I have provided the mitigation and monitoring described in the Decision Notices for both projects:

Deer Creeks Prescribed Burn Project – *Attachment A*
Packsaddle Butte Multiple Resource Project – *Attachment B*

Thank you for your interest.


JULIE SHEA
Fire/Fuels Planner

cc: Steve Christiansen, GNF Environmental Coordinator
Bill Avey, Big Timber District Ranger

*Not
complete
No information
yet.*



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