

Chris Taggart

From: USDA Forest Service <forestservice@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 9:00 PM
To: Chris Taggart
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 14 Day Public Scoping Notice for Sula Fuels Break Project



sted Party,

Bitterroot National Forest requests your comments on the Sula Fuels Break Project. The Sula Project will create a 3,000-acre fuels break to address hazardous fuel conditions adjacent to roads in the Medicine Springs, Laird Creek, Andrews Creek, Camp Creek, Lost Trail, and Grange and the nearby communities of Conner and Sula.

A fuel break is defined as a natural or man-made change in fuel characteristics that can affect fire behavior such that a fire can possibly be controlled. The intent is to reduce wildfire spread and intensity and to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire on Federal land or private land. Fuel breaks may be up to 3,000 acres and a maximum width of 1,000 feet. Treating these areas now would increase the effectiveness of suppression efforts and help maintain the safety of these communities and area resources should we experience a wildfire event.

The Sula Project is being proposed under Section 40806 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021. This law authorizes the construction of fuel breaks adjacent to existing constructed linear features, such as a road, trail, powerline, or similar feature. Fuel breaks may be up to 3,000 acres and a maximum width of 1,000 feet. Projects which fall under Section 40806 are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Bitterroot National Forest wants to hear from you. We request your input on the Sula Project during this 14-day public scoping period. Your comments are most helpful when they provide specific information on the project, proposed activities, and/or resources of concern in the area. Please provide information on additional locations within the project area that may benefit from the construction of fuel breaks.

For more information, please visit the project website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/bitterroot/?project=64729>. The “Get Connected” menu on the right provides an option to comment as well as an option to subscribe to email updates.

Submit your written comments by **September 14, 2023**. Your comments should include your name, address, email address, telephone number (if applicable) the name of the organization you represent.

Comments may also be mailed to the following address:

Bitterroot National Forest
Bret Pruss - Sula Project
1000
Street
Sula, MT 59840

For questions, please contact me by telephone at 406-363-7100 or by email at matthew.anderson3@usda.gov.

Thank you for your interest in the Bitterroot National Forest and the projects we undertake to manage your resources and keep your community safe.

Matthew
Forest Supervisor

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