

Chris Taggart

From: USDA Forest Service <forestservice@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 8:58 PM
To: Chris Taggart
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 14 Day Public Scoping Notice for Sleeping Child Fuels Break Project



sted Party,

Bitterroot National Forest requests your comments on the Sleeping Child Fuels Break Project. The Sleeping Child Project will create a fuel break to address hazardous fuel conditions adjacent to roads in the Black Bear Point, Two Bear Creek, Sleeping Child Creek, and the nearby communities of Grantsdale, Ward, Charlos Heights, Como, and Darby.

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 to reduce the risk of wildfire for nearby communities. Treating these areas now would increase the effectiveness of suppression efforts and help maintain these communities and area resources should we experience a wildfire event.

The Sleeping Child 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 100 contiguous acres and a maximum width of 1,000 feet. Projects which fall under Section 40806 are excluded from documentation in a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Bitterroot National Forest wants to hear from you. We request your input on the Sleeping Child 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. We also welcome information on additional locations within the project area that may benefit from the construction of fuel breaks.

For more information on electronic comments and learn more about the Project, and to learn more about the Project's location, purpose and need, and project schedule, please visit the project website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/bitterroot/?project=64728>. The "Get Connected" menu on the right side of the website 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, and (if applicable) the name of the organization you represent.

Comments may also be mailed to the following address:

Bitterroot National Forest
Robert Pruss – Sleeping Child Project
10000
Street
Bozeman, 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
Anderson
Supervisor

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