

## Chris Taggart

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**From:** USDA Forest Service <forestservice@public.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2023 8:56 PM  
**To:** Chris Taggart  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 14 Day Public Scoping Notice for Rye Creek Fuels Break Project



sted Party,

Bitterroot National Forest requests your comments on the Rye Creek Fuels Break Project. The Rye Creek Project will create an 1,886-acre fuel break to address hazardous fuel conditions adjacent to roads in the Rye Creek area and the nearby communities of Charlos Heights, Como, and...

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 and 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 Rye Creek 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 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 Rye Creek 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 want to hear information on additional locations within the project area that may benefit from the construction of fuel breaks.

Submit your electronic comments and learn more about the Project, and to learn more about the Project's location, purpose and need, and project details, please visit the project website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/bitterroot/?project=64726>. The "Get Connected" menu on the right side of the website has 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  
Met Pruss - Rye Creek Project  
1000  
Street  
Bozeman, MT 59840

For questions, please contact me by telephone at 406-363-7100 or by email at [matthew.anderson3@usda.gov](mailto: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 commu-

Matthew Anderson  
Forest Supervisor

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