



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Upper Snake Field Office
1405 Hollipark Ave
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

In reply refer to:
9210 (IDI01000)

July 1, 2015

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Upper Snake Field Office (USFO) is in the initial stages of developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) that will analyze the impacts of initiating a program to hand and mechanically thin and harvest an estimated 4,280 acres of forested public land in the Shotgun Valley over the next 10 years. The proposed project would consist of a series of treatments focused on reducing hazardous fuel accumulations and improving forest and shrub community health, as well as providing for improved public and firefighter safety from uncharacteristic wildland fire (see attached map).

This analysis is intended to consider the environmental impacts of reducing ladder and ground fuels using a variety of mechanical methods, as well as increasing the crown spacing of mature conifers through commercial harvesting. The EA would be tiered to the *Proposed Fire, Fuels, and Related Vegetation Management Direction Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement* (DOI-BLM 2008), the *Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (DOI-BLM 2007a), and will incorporate by reference the *Final Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Report* (DOI-BLM 2007b).

You received this notice because you have expressed interest in BLM's proposals in the past and the Bureau would again like to solicit comments, suggestions, and preliminary issues related to the alternative proposals the BLM will soon be considering. Please find the enclosed materials that provide additional details regarding the proposal now under consideration.

Comments are specifically requested on the Proposed Action, preliminary issues, and alternatives. Comments made on the proposal would be most helpful if they are received by August 1, 2015 and are directly relevant to the proposal and project area. Comments sent by mail may be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83402, Attention: Shotgun Valley Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project. Please identify whether you are submitting comments as an individual or as the designated spokesperson on behalf of an organization. Issues that are outside of the scope of the proposal will not be addressed at this preliminary planning level.

The primary contacts for questions and comments related to this project would be: Channing Swan, Forester, (208) 478-6389 and Ben Dyer, Fire Ecologist, (208) 524-7534.

Sincerely,

Glen Guenther

Upper Snake Field Office Manager

Enclosures:
Scoping Information
Map of Proposed Treatments