



MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 3 Headquarters
1400 S 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

September 14, 2023

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
420 Barrett Street
Dillon, MT 59725-3572

RE: Buttermilk and Basin Cataract Fuels Break Project

Dear Lisa Timchak,

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) recommends that fuel breaks within the Buttermilk project area be no more than 300 feet wide on either side of the road to maintain elk security to the extent possible while still meeting Forest Service objectives.

FWP recommends completing the project by December 1. If that is not possible FWP recommends pausing until July 1 of the following year to maintain elk security during winter and spring calving.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Buttermilk Fuels Break project.

For further questions or concerns, please reach out to the following FWP personnel:

Vanna Boccadori, wildlife biologist (406-494-2082, vboccadori@mt.gov)

Jen Smitham, Region 3 public comment coordinator (406-495-3262, jsmitham@mt.gov)

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Marina Yoshioka
Region 3 Supervisor