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Organization: Montana Fish, Wildlife, Parks

Title:

Comments: Thank you for your opportunity to comment on the Three Rivers Ranger District's proposed Trojan Defense project. We offer the following comments pertaining to the proposal: Wildlife Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) foresees that opening the understory using under-burns and harvest will help improve the amount and quality of winter range for both elk and mule deer, and improve summer forage for both black and grizzly bears within the project area. While we understand the need for thinning to reduce fuel loads in the proposal area, FWP would like more information as to how the Forest Service might mitigate for the reduction of canopy cover necessary to maintain high-quality moose and white-tailed deer winter range. FWP would like to see more information regarding noxious weed abatement, particularly along new roads and following timber treatments. Fisheries Any portion of the project that may affect the existing shape or form of any stream or its banks or tributaries could require FWP review through the SPA 124 permitting process. Other permits may be required for work impacting streams and should be obtained prior to initiating such activities. Best Management Practices should be applied consistent with the Kootenai National Forest Land Management Plan. We appreciate the chance to review this proposal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact area wildlife biologist, Tonya Chilton-Radandt at (406)293-4161 x 209 or area fisheries biologist, Brian Stephens at (406) 293-4161 x 204.