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Comments: The Gardiner Ranger District is proposing to treat approximately 4,401 acres of National Forest System lands on the Gardiner Ranger District of the Custer Gallatin National Forest, using a variety of vegetation treatments aimed at reducing the risk and extent of, and increase resilience to, insect and disease outbreaks, and to reduce hazardous fuels.

The project is located in Park County, Montana, on the Gardiner Ranger District of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The project area is adjacent to the community of Gardiner, surrounding the community of Jardine, and north of Yellowstone National Park. The project area encompasses Eagle Creek, Bear Creek, Palmer Creek, and Crevice Creek.

The project area includes lands identified under the Emergency Situation Determination which the Secretary of Agriculture made under section 40807 of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act. The lands included in the determination were those identified as experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, insect and disease infestations as a part of Section 602 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and lands under very high or high fire risk as identified in the 2023 Wildfire Hazard Potential for the United States report. The Project Area also includes the Wildland Urban Interface around the community of Jardine, MT.

The Bear Palmer Forest Health Project has been approved under the Emergency Action Determination authority of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Section 40807. Therefore, this will be the only opportunity to comment on the Bear Palmer Forest Health Project. There will be no administrative review process per agency guidance and the authority granted in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.