



FACT SHEET



United States Department of Agriculture
Web: <http://www.usda.gov>

United States Department of Interior
Web: <http://www.doi.gov>

Making a Difference Bitterroot National Forest - Montana

The Bitterroot National Forest in western Montana is utilizing the new Healthy Forest Initiative authorities under Category 10 to reduce the fuels on 700 acres of forested land in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The work is located south of Hamilton, Montana in an area of scattered homes and a resort complex. The area is in condition class 3 and is part of the area within the Ravalli (Co.) Community Based Fire Plan. The Forest efficiently produced a signed decision for the categorical exclusion analysis and found that they saved 10-12 months of planning time with the new authority.

This project, now packaged as a stewardship contract, includes a fuels treatment by chipping, prescribed burning, or machine and hand piling of logging slash with a follow-up burn. There will also be an over-story thinning harvest to remove approximately 1.8 million board feet of timber. The contract will soon be awarded with work planned to begin in September.

The project was planned in coordination with the Backcounty Horsemen due to the number of popular riding trails in the project area.

For more information on the Healthy Forests Restoration Act and the Healthy Forests Initiative, visit www.healthyforests.gov

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