

Legal Notice of Proposed Action Willow Basin Wildland-Urban Interface Fuels Treatment Project (Correction)

On July 5, 2007 Lee Johnson, District Ranger, Moab/Monticello Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest published the Legal Notice of Proposed Action for the Willow Basin Wildland-Urban Interface Fuels Treatment Proj-

ect in the Times Independent, Moab, Utah. That publication stated that there was a 45 day comment period. This publication corrects that and clarifies information related to the appeal process.

The Moab/Monticello Ranger District on the Manti-La Sal National Forest proposes to mechanically thin vegetation within the Willow Basin wildland-urban interface (WUI), which directly poses a threat to private property and public and firefighter safety. The project area is approximately 1,725 acres, on which, about 1,000 acres of mechanical fuels treatment would occur.

The Forest Service has made a preliminary assessment that this proposal falls within categories of actions listed in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and that no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude use of the categories (FSH 1909.15, Chapter 21)

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies as well as individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by the proposed action. The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions on the issues related to the proposal and the area being analyzed. Information received will be used in the preparation of an environmental analysis as required under the National Environmental Policy Act and to determine if this project meets the criteria for Categorical Exclusion. A decision as to whether the project will be categorically excluded is expected to be made by September 2007.

The decision for this project is anticipated to be subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215. Only those who submit timely comments during this comment period will be accepted as potential appellants. Each individual or representative from each organization, submitting comments must either sign the comments or otherwise verify identity in order to attain appeal eligibility. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project, and will be available for public inspection.

Comments should include the information required pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3), as published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2003.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following initial publication of the Legal Notice of Proposed Action in The Times-Independent, Moab, Utah (published July 5, 2007). The publication date in the newspaper-of-record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. You should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Comments should include your name, address, telephone number, organization represented (if any), title of the

proposal, and specific facts and supporting reasons for us to consider in the analysis.

The Responsible Official is Lee Johnson. Written comments must be submitted to Lee Johnson - District Ranger or Brenda Dale - Team Leader, Moab/Monticello Ranger District, PO Box 820, 432 East Center Street, Monticello, UT 84535. The office business hours are: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Officials office during normal business hours via telephone (435-587-2041) or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is de-

signed to elicit public comments. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) and should be e-mailed to comments-intermtn-mantilasal-moabmonticello or bdale@fs.fed.us. Faxed comments may be sent to 435-587-2637. Comments must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Only those who submit timely comments will be eligible to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215.

A public meeting (open house) regarding this proposed project will be held at the new Moab Senior Center (182 West 500 North, Moab, Utah) on July 26, 2007 from 4:00-7:00 pm.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal please contact Brenda Dale or Lee Johnson at

435-587-2041. Thank you for your interest and participation in the management of the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

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