



Dear Interested Citizen:

Date: October 28, 2009

The Pikes Peak Ranger District of the Pike and San Isabel National Forest, proposes to treat approximately 25,000 acres within the 100,000 acre Catamount Project boundary to restore the ponderosa pine and Douglas fir dominated forests of the montane ecosystem to its historic conditions, that would result in reducing wildfire hazards and improving the health of the forest. The treatments would use commercial and non-commercial thinning, created openings and prescribed burning to remove the smallest size classes of conifers, which are unhealthy/weak/ hazardous, until a desired stocking level of 40–120 square feet of basal area per acre is reached.

The purposes of this project are:

- To reduce the risk that a wildfire would negatively affect the municipal watershed reserves for the cities of Colorado Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Cascade, Chipita Park and Manitou Springs.
- To reduce fuels and associated risk of extreme fire behavior in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- To improve forest health, vigor, and resistance to fire, insects and disease.
- To reduce the risk of severe flooding and sedimentation for the protection of public safety, water system infrastructure, and other natural and developed resources.

A public meeting was held on April 23, 2009 to solicit input regarding this project. We have used that input and have additional information for public review and comment. Two separate public meetings will be held in November to present the proposed action, the project process and schedule, and to gather comments and concerns from the public. The first is scheduled for November 5th at the Pikes Peak Room, Leon Young Service Center, 1521 Hancock Expressway, Colorado Springs from 4:30 to 7:00 PM. A second meeting will be held in Woodland Park during the 3rd week of November. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/projects> or contact Bob Ayotte at 719-477-4216.

If you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, or you feel you have issues (points of dispute, debate, or disagreement) regarding potential effects of the Proposed Action, please attend the public meeting or send these in writing to: Catamount Project, U.S. Forest Service, 601 S. Weber St, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, on or before December 4, 2009. You can also comment via email to Catamount@jw-associates.org.

Sincerely,

Brent Botts

District Ranger