

April 8, 2015

**Tenmile – South Helena: Forest Restoration Collaborative Committee
Forest Service Talking Points**

Our Planning Process: How we got to where we are now...

- Project development:
 - 2005 – Tri-County Fire Working Group: Regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Recommends landscape scale approach to reducing wildfire impacts on communities at risk.
 - 2009 - Ten Mile Watershed Collaborative Committee provided Recommendations to the City of Helena Commission who encouraged the Forest Service to incorporate into their planning process.
 - Red Mountain Flume Chessman Reservoir Project – 1st step in incorporating recommendations – This project is currently being implemented.
 - 2014 – The Tenmile – South Helena Proposed Action was presented to the public during a 30-day scoping comment period. The design of the Proposed Action was based in part on the past collaborative efforts of the Tri-County Fire Working Group and Ten Mile Watershed Collaborative Committee.
 - 2015 – Scoping Comments were used to identify additional analysis needs, new alternatives to the proposed action, and design criteria / mitigation measures. These will be incorporated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement scheduled to be released to the public for a 45-day comment period around spring/early summer of 2015.

Public Comments: How were they categorized?

- Process:
 - 30-day scoping comment period.
 - Multiple public open house events and meetings with the Collaborative Committee and other agencies meetings were held.
 - Approximately 120 Scoping Comments were received including comment submitted by the Tenmile Collaborative Committee.
 - Each letter was read by the project's team.
 - The team identified those comments that fell within one of four categories.
 1. Not within scope
 2. Analysis
 3. Design Criteria / Mitigation
 4. New Alternative
 - Comments that fell within these categorizes will be incorporated into the DEIS.

Next Steps:

- The Forest is currently in the process of analyzing three alternatives:
 - 1) No Action, 2) Modified Proposed Action, and 3) Action Alternative.
 - Analyze the effects of proposed activities on the human and physical environment.
- Release of Draft EIS to the public
 - Discloses the potential effects of proposed activities to the public.
 - 45-day Comment Period starting around spring/early summer of 2015.
- FEIS and Draft Decision will be release around spring/early summer of 2016.
 - Objection period (45-day opportunity to Object).
 - Final Record of Decision to follow.