

1. Proposed Meeting Agenda And Information Packet

Documents:

PROPOSED 10 MARCH 2023 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA (1).PDF
NEWS_ DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE FOR THE
CHIMERA FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT, BLACK HILLS NATIONAL
FOREST.PDF



LAWRENCE COUNTY

SOUTH DAKOTA

"Where Beauty and Adventure Meet"

Lawrence County
Natural Resources Committee Meeting
~ Commission Room ~
90 Sherman Street,
Deadwood, SD 57732
Friday, March 10, 2023

MEETING AGENDA

3:00 p.m. ~ Call Meeting to Order

DISCUSSION/ACTION: □ Call meeting to order □ Approve agenda

~ General Business

DISCUSSION/ACTION: □ Update: LiDAR project data presentation and discussion □ Updates: Forest projects and Forest Plan Amendment

~ Items from the Public

BOARD DISCUSSION: □ Items raised by the public for discussion

~ Items From Commissioners

BOARD DISCUSSION: □ Items raised by Commissioners for discussion

5:00 p.m. ~ Adjourn

DISCUSSION/ACTION: □ Adjourn

*Agenda subject to change. Times are approximate.

**ADA Compliance: Lawrence County fully subscribes to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you desire to attend this public meeting and are in need of special accommodations, please notify the Commissioners' Assistant 605.722.4167 24 hours prior to the meeting so that appropriate auxiliary aids and services are available.

*** Next meeting: future meetings T.B.A. as needed

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/152688557>

Version date: 02/27/2023

NEWS: Draft Environmental Assessment Available for the Chimera Fuels Reduction Project, Black Hills National Forest

External

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Black Hills National Forest

Forest Service News Release

Media Contact: Beth Doten

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 www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills



Draft Environmental Assessment Available for the Chimera Fuels Reduction Project

Spearfish, S.D., March 9, 2023 — The Black Hills National Forest, Northern Hills Ranger District (NHRD), is announcing the availability of the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Chimera Fuels Reduction Project (Chimera Project), located east of Lead/Deadwood, SD and south of Sturgis, SD, encompassing the Boulder Canyon, Galena, and Vanocker Canyon areas.

The draft EA is available for review by visiting the project website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61689>.

The Forest is proposing to conduct a combination of commercial and non-commercial vegetation treatments on National Forest System (NFS) land within the Chimera project area.

The project area encompasses a total of 55,159 acres (includes 15,942 acres of private) in the northeastern corner of the Northern Hills Ranger District, east of the communities of Lead and Deadwood, and south and west of the Interstate 90 corridor, which includes the

communities of Whitewood, Sturgis, and Tilford. Major geographical features located within the project area include Vanocker Canyon, Deadman Mountain, Dome Mountain, Crook Mountain, Veterans Peak, and Strawberry Ridge.

The purpose of the Chimera project is to increase the resiliency of forest landscapes and communities to wildfire, decrease the impacts of wildfires within the wildland urban interface, and allow for an effective and safe response to wildfires when they occur by implementing vegetation treatments that would reduce ladder fuels, thin dense pine stands, and promote the expansion of hardwood stands and meadows while working toward management area objectives within the project area.

This EA is being prepared under the provisions of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA).

A second authority being considered is the Western Firesheds Emergency Action Determination (EAD) under Section 40807 of the 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as this area is one of the top ten firesheds in the region as identified in the Chief's 10 year wildland fire strategy.

Comments on the draft EA will be accepted for 30 days beginning on the first day after the date of publication of a legal notice in the Rapid City Journal, which was published on March 8, 2023. All written comments received, including names and addresses of commenters, will be placed in the project file, and will become public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Agency with the ability to provide the commenter with subsequent environmental documents. Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2).

The most efficient method of submitting comments on this draft EA is by visiting the project website (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61689>) and clicking the

“Comment/Object on Project” link. You may also submit comments to the project leader, Chris Stores, by mail, phone, or fax to:

Northern Hills Ranger District

2014 North Main Street

Spearfish, SD 57783

Telephone: (605) 642-4622

Fax: (605) 642-4156

Office hours, for those who wish to hand deliver their comments, are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday (except Federal holidays). Any questions regarding this project can be directed to Steve Kozel, Northern Hills District Ranger or Chris Stores, Natural Resource Planner, at the phone number listed above.

For more information on the Black Hills National Forest, visit www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills, follow Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blackhillsnf> and/or Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BlackHillsNF>

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