Town of Frisco
Backyard Fuels and
Trails Project

July 2022 Project Update







- Outdoor recreation and community planning firm with extensive NEPA expertise
- Long history supporting Town of Frisco in community planning and the White River National Forest (WRNF) in environmental review processes
- Mission is sustainable and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities and this is our "backyard" too
- Recently completed or actively engaged in several forest health projects within CO mountain communities



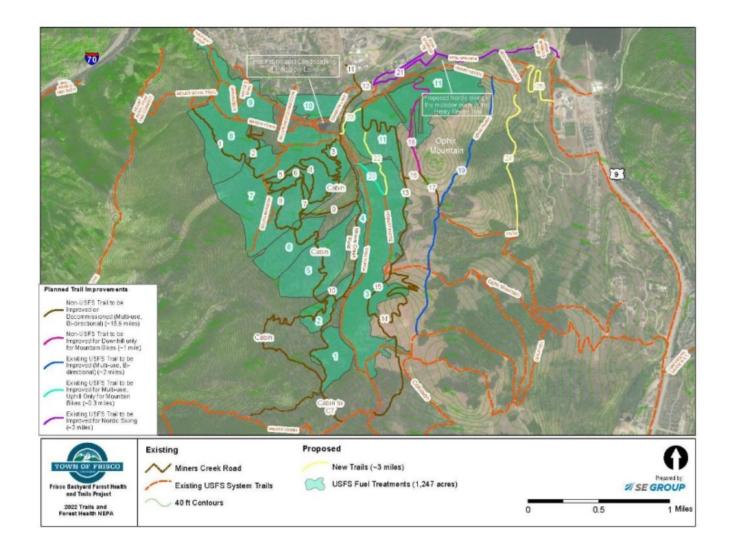
Backyard Proposal – Then and Now



Then

- High level
- Approximately 230 acres
- Trails radiating from fuels treatment areas (hub and spoke)
- Treatments focused closer to town center

Backyard Proposal – Then and Now



Now

- Approximately 1,200 acres
- Modifying treatments based on preliminary modeled fire intensity and considering potential ignition sources
- Evaluating social trails by use, redundancy, and elk
 Management Area
- Preliminary at this time

'Streamlined' EA Process NATIONAL EN

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Official "Project Proposal Letter" (PPL)
Submitted by Proponent to USFS

• PPL submitted by Proponent to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

July 2022

USFS Evaluation of PPL and Proposal Acceptance

- PPL reviewed for consistency with the Forest Plan, USFS Direction, and the Master Development Plan.
- Based on predicted environmental impacts, the USFS determines if an EA would be necessary to analyze the proposal.
- · Project proposal accepted by USFS, if appropriate.

August 2022

Proposed Action Development

 USFS Interdisciplinary Team (ID) Team resource specialists work with Proponent to develop Proposed Action, project design criteria, and mitigation and monitoring measures to minimize environmental impacts.

August – September 2022

NEPA Process Begins: Public Scoping/Comment Period (Public Comment Opportunity)

- Notice of Proposed Action, including project purpose and need, description, and Preliminary Findings mailed to the public and agencies.
- Scoping period initiated when the Legal Notice is published in the newspaper of record.
- Public has opportunity to present comments on the project specific website and/or in writing, by fax, by email, or in person.
- Public Open House may be held during scoping/comment period (the opportunity for the public to be informed of the project proposal, ask questions, and submit comments).

October 2022



· Comments received during the scoping/comment period are reviewed by the ID Team. Issues and Alternatives Identified • Issues raised through external public and agency or internal USFS October – November scoping may drive the modification of the Proposed Action or the by USFS ID Team Based on formulation of additional action alternatives. Internal and External Comments • NEPA requires the development of a "reasonable range of alternatives." . Preparation of the EA. · Remaining field surveys are conducted. • Technical reports are prepared, including Biological Evaluation submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Requirement. • EA is comprised of the Purpose & Need for Action, Description of Alternatives, Affected Environment, and Environmental Studies and Analysis Conducted Consequences, as well as mitigation measures to minimize impacts to resources. • Issues raised through scoping process provide the foundation for the resource analysis and the effects are compared by alternative. • Preparation of Response to Comments (Appendix to EA). • Preparation of Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, if appropriate. • EA Response to Comments and Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact published, if appropriate. Pre-Decisional Objection and 45-day Pre-Decisional Objection Period. Resolution Period If objections are received, a 45-day objection review period begins. • If no objections are filed, issue decision on or before fifth business Publication/Issuance of day after close of objection period. Final Decision Notice and • If objections are filed, decision issued after all objections have

Finding of No Significant Impact,

if Appropriate

2022

December 2022 -January 2023

March - April 2023



May 2023

been responded to in writing. • Implementation possible after Decision Notice is signed.



Next Steps

• Fieldwork – Occurring Now!

Work with WRNF to refine proposal

• Estimate costs and strategies for larger treatment area

Prepare for public scoping (tentatively October)

