United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Intermountain Region
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401
801-625-5605

File Code: 2004120014-218

Date: May 22, 2020

CERTIFIED-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Fred Coriell
fredcoriell@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Coriell;

This is my response to your objection to the draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact for the South Fork Restoration and Access Management Plan Project on the Payette National Forest. Forest Supervisor Linda Jackson is the responsible official for the project. I am the objection reviewing officer.

I have read your objection and have reviewed both the final environmental assessment ("final EA") and the draft decision notice ("draft DN"). I also have considered documentation in the project record. This communication satisfies the requirements of 36 Code of Federal Regulations ("CFR") 218.11, Resolution of Objections.

1. Resolution Meeting

As provided in 36 CFR 218.11, the Forest Service invited all objectors to participate in resolution meetings which were held via conference call on March 25 and March 27.

2. Objection Response and Instructions to the Responsible Official

Forest Service regulations do not require me to provide a point-by-point response to objection issues (see 36 CFR 218.11(b)(1)). The draft decision notice for the South Fork project includes 16 components (draft DN, pp. 2 through 6) as part of the proposed selected alternative. Based on our resolution meetings, subsequent communication with objectors, and discussions with the responsible official, I have chosen to provide instructions back to the Payette National Forest that will allow 14 of the components to be authorized via a decision notice and finding of no significant impact and will require that two of the components receive further consideration by the responsible official. Each of these components is discussed briefly below.

2.1 Components of the project which I instruct the responsible official to authorize after all necessary consultation has occurred:

1. **The confluence site plan** as described in Alternative B (draft DN, pp. 2) with additional signage and parking at the Hamilton Bar gate.
2. **Hamilton Bar Road** (Forest Road 50673), using a combination of alternatives A and C (draft DN, pg. 2) with additional implementation details to issue long term permit to the

landowner to replace 10 years of annual special use authorizations and once a year road maintenance consistent with Maintenance Level 2 roads.

3. **33 Bend/Oompaul Dispersed Site Plan** as described in Alternative B (draft DN, pg. 3).
4. **Loon Creek/Split Creek** Trail (Trail #081) as described in Alternative B modified (draft DN, pg. 3).
5. **Jakie Creek Bridge** as described in Alternative B (draft DN, pg. 3).
6. **Phoebe Meadows Trail** (Trail #291) as described in Alternative B (draft DN, pg. 4).
7. **Forest Roads and Trails Act (FRTA) Easement** on South Fork Salmon River Road using **Alternative A, the no action alternative**. Initially Valley County requested a FRTA easement. However, in a December 10, 2019, letter to the Payette National Forest, Valley County withdrew its request. Should Valley County request a FRTA easement in the future, any proposal to grant the easement will involve a public comment period and an associated objection period on a draft decision as per Forest Service NEPA and administrative review regulations.
8. **Brewer Site Access Road** (Route ID 503403300) as described in Alternative B (draft DN, pg. 5).
9. **Cougar Creek Trail** (Trail #098) as described in Alternative C (draft DN, pg. 5).
10. **Former Davis Ranch Road** (Trail #076) using a combination of alternatives B and C (draft DN, pg. 5) and continue to work with private landowners to address trail maintenance needs.
11. **Blue Lake and Tailholt Trailhead** (Trail #294) as described in Alternative B (draft DN, pg. 6).
12. **Krassel Work Center Access Roads** as described in Alternative B (draft DN, pg. 6). This would include a forest plan amendment to waive Standard 1222.
13. **Reed Ranch Airstrip Access Road** (Route ID 506746000) as described in Alternative B (draft DN, pg. 6). This would include a forest plan amendment to waive Standard 1222.
14. **Pilot Peak Spring Access Road** (Route ID 503417000) as described in Alternative A, no action (draft DN, pg. 6).

2.2 Components of the project for which I instruct the responsible official to consider an additional alternative using the existing environmental analysis:

15. **Road Decommissioning** (draft decision notice, pg. 2).
16. **Little Buckhorn Creek ATV Trails** (decision notice, pg. 4) to add public access to the motor vehicle use map while offsetting with watershed restoration as required by the forest plan.

Within the range of actions already analyzed and the forest plan amendments already considered in the December 2019 environmental assessment, the Payette National Forest may develop an additional alternative. Any additional alternative that is considered should involve coordination with the Big Creek-Yellow Pine Collaborative group as stipulated in Settlement Agreement NRS-#1151800.

Whether or not an additional alternative is developed, the Payette National Forest will prepare a new draft decision notice and will initiate a 45-day objection period as required by 36 CFR 218. As noted in 36 CFR 218.8(c), issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted

specific written comments about the proposed project unless the issue is based on new information that arose after previous opportunities to provide comments.

4. Conclusion

As provided in 36 CFR 218.11(b)(2), my review constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture. No further review from any other Forest Service or Department of Agriculture official of my written response to your objection is available.

If you have questions about the objection review process, please contact Pete Gomben, regional administrative review and litigation coordinator, at pete.gomben@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

DAVID ROSENKRANCE
Deputy Regional Forester and Objection Reviewing Officer

cc: Linda Jackson, Sandra Dingman, Pete Gomben