

**DECISION MEMO**  
**Enhancement of Big Huckleberry in Government Meadows.**  
**USDA Forest Service**  
**Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District**  
**King and Pierce Counties, WA**

**Background**

The Snoqualmie Ranger District has completed a site-specific analysis for enhancing the production of big huckleberries (*Vaccinium membranaceum*). Muckleshoot tribal elders approached the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest because they felt that berry yields were declining. Historically, the meadows and forest edges in the Government Meadows area have been used for both recreational and subsistence gathering of big huckleberries. In response to concerns over declining yields, the purpose and need of this project is to enhance the production of big huckleberries in portions of the Government Meadows area.

The project area is located in Township 19 N, Range 11 E, Section 33, on the Snoqualmie Ranger District of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington State (Figure 1). The units are situated near the crest of the Western Cascade Mountains, within the Upper White River watershed (in the Lower Greenwater and Upper Greenwater subwatersheds), near the intersection of Pierce, King, and Kittitas counties. Treatments are proposed in four units that range in size from 4 acres to 23 acres (Figure 2).

**Decision**

I have decided to implement the huckleberry enhancement project in an effort to improve the productivity of big huckleberry in the Government Meadows area. The project will reduce the number of small trees, as needed within four units totaling 47 acres (see Figure 2), with the objective of achieving approximately 30 to 50% crown cover. The objective will be achieved by thinning, followed by hand piling and burning small piles to control slash. This project also includes planting huckleberry bushes and other native shrubs that were grown from berries collected in the Government Meadows area, and the sale of permits for special forest products (such as boughs and Christmas trees) to help support project implementation and follow-up maintenance. A management and monitoring plan that includes more details about the treatment prescription, has been prepared as a collaborative effort between the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Cultural Resources Department, the University of Washington Department of Anthropology, and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and is included as part of this analysis.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment because it falls within *FSH 1909.15 Section 31.2, category 6*; “*Timber stand or wildlife habitat activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction*”.

The categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment.

## Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures

The following project design features are integral components of this decision. A more detailed listing of these measures (describing effectiveness, which Forest Plan Standard and Guideline they tier to, and who is responsible for implementing the measure) is in the Project Record.

### VEGETATION

1. If any previously undiscovered threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare or uncommon vascular plants, bryophytes, lichens, or fungi are discovered, before or during project implementation, halt work until a USFS botanist is consulted and necessary mitigation measures are enacted.
2. Treat known infestations *before* ground disturbance begins.
3. For actions conducted or authorized by written permit by the Forest Service that will operate outside the limits of the road prism, require the cleaning of all heavy equipment *prior to entering NFS Lands*.
4. If any mulch, fill, or non-native seed are needed at any point in the future of this project, suppliers must provide annual documentation to the contract administrator indicating that the following products have been examined by a qualified inspector and deemed free of State listed noxious weeds:
  - a. Straw or other mulch
  - b. Gravel, rock, or other fill
  - c. Seeds (according to AOSA standards)
5. If weeds are present in the project area, all equipment and gear must be cleaned *before leaving the project area* to avoid spreading the infestation further.
6. Revegetate all areas of bare soil exposed by project activities if there is a risk of noxious weed invasion.
7. Native plant materials are the first choice in revegetation where timely natural regeneration of the native plant community is not likely to occur.

### FIRE

Slash will be treated primarily by hand piling of slash and prescribed burning of the hand piles. Hand piles shall not exceed a footprint of 6 feet wide, 6 feet long and 6 feet tall. Hand piles should be covered with clear polyurethane sheeting to ensure piles are dry when optimum pile-burning conditions are prevalent after adequate fall precipitation has fallen to reduce the probability of an escaped prescribed burn. Hand piles will be limited to slash less than 8" in diameter, which reduces residence time of the burning pile, reducing negative effects to the soil and leaves adequate firewood available to the public for campfires.

### FISHERIES

1. Use any existing skid trails and landings to the extent practicable for dragging slash or driving and parking vehicles.
2. Disturbed ground where (if) runoff has the potential to drain into stream channels or seriously damage neighboring vegetation shall be re-vegetated or protected from surface erosion by seeding, mulching, or other methods prior to the fall rainy season.

3. Leave in place trees accidentally felled or dropped into a wetted channel.
4. Do not drag cut trees and slash through any perennial or intermittent stream channels.
5. Heavy use by vehicular traffic on all roads in the project areas restricted during rainy periods as necessary to minimize the potential for downstream sedimentation.
6. Curtail operations when soils are excessively wet or soil disturbance is occurring.
7. If heavy equipment is present make a hazardous spill plan and clean-up materials available on-site.
8. Conduct any machinery maintenance involving potential contaminants (fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, etc.) at an approved site or outside the Riparian Reserve.
9. Prior to starting work each day, check all machinery for leaks and make all necessary repairs.

## WILDLIFE

The use of power tools or other methods that would produce above ambient noise levels during project implementation should not occur beginning March 1 through August 1. This measure is to help ensure protection of elk during the critical period of calving that is occurs in the project area.

## RECREATION

The Snoqualmie Ranger District recreation specialist on the interdisciplinary team deemed that given all the other management and mitigation measures, there were no additional ones needed specifically for recreation.

## TIMBER

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Silviculturist for the interdisciplinary team deemed that given all the other management and mitigation measures, there were no additional ones needed specifically for timber.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. A Heritage Specialist will identify boundaries to any potentially eligible properties and will impose a buffer zone around the property that will ensure avoidance of the qualities that may make the property eligible. Unit boundaries will be adjusted, if necessary, prior to implementation of any part of this undertaking (Stipulation III.B.2 of the 1997 Programmatic Agreement between the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP, the Washington State Historic Preservation Office (WA SHPO, and the United States Forest Service Region Six (USFS R6)).
2. Ground disturbing activities (e.g. containerized shrub planting, pile burning ) will be monitored by a Heritage Specialist, or specified representative, for identification of previously unidentified cultural resources. If a previously unidentified cultural resource(s) is discovered during project implementation, or if an identified resource(s) is affected in an unanticipated way, the activity shall be stopped in the area of the find and a reasonable effort to secure and protect the resource(s) be made. The Forest Heritage Specialist shall be notified and the Forest will fulfill its responsibilities in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement and other applicable regulations.

## Rationale for Decision

The purpose of the project is to implement measures in an effort to enhance the productivity of big huckleberry in the Government Meadows area. If not action is taken, trees will continue to shade out the huckleberry bushes and huckleberry productivity will be expected to decrease accordingly. Surveys were conducted by at the proper time of year by qualified specialists and the unit boundaries were modified slightly to avoid impacts to resources of concern. Given the mitigation and management measures listed above, there is no expected risk to human or natural resources if the proposed action is implemented.

## Reasons for Categorically Excluding the Action from Additional Documentation

Specific actions may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). Agency policy at Forest Service NEPA Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Chapter 30, section 30.3, states that a proposed action may be categorically excluded from documentation only if the action is within a category listed in FSH 1909.15, sections 31.1b or 31.2; and there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in significant individual or cumulative environmental effects.

The proposed action qualifies for this exclusion under *Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 30, section 31.6, Category 6: "Timber stand or wildlife habitat activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction"*.

## Finding of No Extraordinary Circumstances

I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect (as defined in FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30). My determination is based on interdisciplinary team review and analysis and documents in the project record, as summarized below for each extraordinary circumstance in the FSH Chapter 30.

- a. **Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical or essential habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species** - The project has been analyzed to determine effects on threatened or endangered species, and their critical habitat. Details regarding biological evaluations and biological assessments are in the Project Record. A summary follows: The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS) submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) dated March 2001 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). This consultation addressed potential affects to species and critical habitat administered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for a proposed land exchange between the Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser Company. The Huckleberry Enhancement project site was included in the BA (see Table I in Wildlife Specialist Report, project file). The Service concurred with the effects determination of the BA in a Biological Opinion (BO) which stated the affects of the exchange, including the establishment of Management Area 8E (MA 8E) to

create ungulate forage habitat, would have insignificant and discountable effects to species such as the spotted owl, and that carnivores such as grizzly bears and wolves would benefit from ungulate habitat enhancement. The Service reaffirmed in a letter to the MBS dated September 2007 that the action to create and establish permanent forage openings are in compliance with the 2001 BO. It was determined that the huckleberry enhancement project would have little or no impact to these species. A pre-field review for wildlife was conducted for sensitive species (see Table II in Wildlife Specialist Report, Project Record). It was determined that proposed project activities would have little to no impacts to sensitive wildlife species (May 27, 2008 Wildlife Report).

There are no fish species in the action area that are currently listed or proposed to be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, nor are there any associated existing or proposed critical habitat listings. There are also no species listed under the Stevens-Magnuson Act for Essential Fish Habitat, or fish species included on the Regional Forester's List of Sensitive Species for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest within the project area (June 6, 2008 Fisheries, Hydrology, Soils Specialist Report).

Botanical surveys of the units were completed by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Botanist in 2007. There were no vascular plants, bryophytes, fungi, or lichens that are federally listed, on the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List or other rare/uncommon species within the units. In addition, there were no state listed noxious weeds of concern within the units (May 29, 2008 Botanical Resources Report).

- b. **Floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watershed** - There are no municipal watersheds in the project area.
- c. **Congressionally-designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas** - The project does not occur in any Congressionally designated area such as wilderness, wilderness study area, or National Recreation Area.
- d. **Inventoried Roadless Areas** - The project does not occur in an Inventoried Roadless Area.
- e. **Research Natural Areas** - The project is not situated in or near a Research Natural Area.
- f. **American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historic properties, or areas** - An appropriate inventory has been conducted for this undertaking and property(s) which may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places have been located. Avoidance measures will be implemented per Stipulation III.B.2(a-d) of the 1997 Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the ACHP, WA SHPO, USFS R6, if necessary; therefore the undertaking meets the criteria given in Stipulation III.B.2 of the 1997 PA and may proceed.

The project will not adversely affect any known American Indian religious or cultural sacred sites. The Federal government has trust responsibilities to Tribes under a government-to-government relationship to ensure that the Tribes reserved rights are

protected. Consultation with Tribes helps ensure that these trust responsibilities are met. The Forest consulted with potentially affected Tribes (see Public Involvement Section, below).

## **Public Involvement**

A proposal to implement treatments in the Government Meadows area has been listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions since January 2008. Tribal government-to-government consultation, to the appropriate contacts for the Muckleshoot, Puyallup, and Yakama Tribes, was formally initiated February 20, 2008 and ended March 29, 2008. No Tribal response was received.

The proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment during scoping, which began February 29, 2008 and ended March 29, 2008. Only two replies were received – both were letters in support of the proposed project. Original letters are included in the Project Record.

Copies of the draft decision memo were mailed to those who participated in the public and government to government scoping process or who otherwise requested a copy – including individuals, groups, and tribal councils. On August 29, 2008, a legal notice of availability was published in the Enumclaw Courier Herald, initiating the 30-day pre-decisional comment period. Two letters, one from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and one from the Tulalip Indian Tribe, were received within the established comment period. Substantive comments are addressed in Appendix A of this document.

## **Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations**

- **National Forest Management Act (NFMA)** – NFMA and its regulations (36 CFR 219 (1982)) established guidelines for National Forest management. This project is consistent with these guidelines for management prescriptions that involve manipulation of tree cover (36 CFR 119.27 (b)).

The NFMA Regulations at 36 CFR 219.27, Management Requirements, include provisions for preservation and enhancement of plant and animal communities. The project will reduce the number of small trees, as needed within four units totaling 47 acres with the objective of enhancing big huckleberry production within these units.

As required by NFMA regulations, I find that this project will be consistent with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended. The project was designed in conformance with the February 2001 Huckleberry Land Exchange Record of Decision and Forest Plan Amendment 16, which designated the project area as Management Area 8E, Greenwater Special Area. This document designates Section 33 of Government Meadows, where the treatment units occur, as “Management Area 8E, Greenwater Special Area” and is known elk summer range. The huckleberry enhancement project will apply methods to improve the production of forage by reducing tree canopy cover and plantings of native forage and browse vegetation (May 27, 2008 Wildlife Report).

The huckleberry enhancement project is not located within Riparian Reserves. However, it will be consistent with Forest Plan, as amended Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives as follows (June 6, 2008 Fisheries, Hydrology, Soils Specialist Report):

**Objective 1: Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations and communities are uniquely adapted.**

The huckleberry enhancement project will manage the vegetation in four units to maximize the quality and quantity of both huckleberry production, and deer and elk forage under thinned conifer stands. At the site scale there will be no change to the riparian conditions, since no riparian areas will be entered or impacted. Natural disturbances within channel migration zones (flood, fire, wind, insects and disease) will gradually diversify the riparian areas. There will be no measurable or observable impact to instream aquatic habitats or the aquatic community.

**Objective 2: Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. Lateral, longitudinal, and drainage network connections include floodplains, wetlands, upslope areas, headwater tributaries, and intact refugia. These network connections must provide chemically and physically unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic and riparian-dependent species.**

The spatial and temporal connectivity of habitats and functions within and between watersheds will be maintained by maintaining the full Riparian Reserves. Floodplains and wetlands will not be affected at the landscape scale and the size and shape of the huckleberry units are proposed such that no connections to drainage networks will be affected. Connectivity conditions related to the existing road system would remain unchanged. There will, therefore, be no measurable or observable impact to the life history requirements of aquatic or riparian dependent species.

**Objective 3: Maintain and restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.**

No tree removal/pre-commercial thinning or burn treatments will occur in Riparian Reserves, so the physical integrity of aquatic systems will be maintained within the analysis area. No improvements or other work will be required on any roads for this project, nor any work in or near stream channels.

**Objective 4: Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems. Water quality must remain within the range that maintains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the system and benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities.**

While an increase in surface erosion will be expected for one to three years following the harvest and burn treatments, the full Riparian Reserves will filter fine sediments generated in the huckleberry units and no measurable or observable changes in water quality impacts will be expected. There will, therefore, be no measurable or observable impacts to the survival, growth, reproduction, or migration of individuals in the riparian or instream aquatic communities

**Objective 5: Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved. Elements of the sediment regime include the timing, volume, rate, and character of sediment input, storage, and transport.**

The huckleberry enhancement project will not change the sediment regime of the action area. No additional roads will be constructed. Except for a one or two-year flush of some fine sediment after treatment, the sediment generated on the units would be similar to the natural sediment regime.

The Riparian Reserves will filter sediment and other contaminants and prevent contamination of water. The sediment regime of the Greenwater subwatershed is slowly recovering from intensive past management. Planned and proposed stabilization and decommissioning of roads will continue to reduce management- related sediment.

**Objective 6: Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows must be protected.**

Some the Riparian Reserves within the action area have been impacted by past management activities, and are recovering. Large wood is currently not available in most of the reserves; shade is recovering slowly; and nutrient filtration is well established. The project will not enter Riparian Reserves. Riparian Reserve function will continue to improve as the reserves grow. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows will, therefore, slowly continue to recover in the watershed.

**Objective 7: Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.**

The project will not effect floodplain inundation and wetlands and meadows will be avoided in order to maintain the integrity of those features.

**Objective 8: Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.**

Riparian Reserves will not be entered or affected by project actions. Recovery of these areas from past management is progressing and will continue unaltered. It will be a number of decades before full plant species composition and structure returns, however, riparian function will not be altered by this project.

**Objective 9: Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.**

The huckleberry enhancement project will maintain existing Riparian Reserves. Riparian reserves will not be entered.

- **Endangered Species Act** – The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) dated March 2001 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This consultation addressed potential effects to species and critical habitat administered under the Endangered Species Act for a proposed land exchange between the Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser Company. The Huckleberry Enhancement project site was included in the land exchange BA. The USFWS concurred with the effects determination of the BA. The USFWS reaffirmed in a letter to the Forest dated September 2007 that the action proposed is in compliance with the 2001 Biological Opinion. The effects of the Huckleberry Enhancement project on threatened and endangered species are: “no effect” for northern spotted owl and northern spotted owl critical habitat, marbled murrelet and marbled murrelet critical habitat, grizzly bear, and gray wolf.

The project will have “no impact” on the following Forest Service sensitive, rare and uncommon species: bald eagle, Larch Mountain salamander, Van Dyke’s salamander, Oregon spotted frog, common loon, American peregrine falcon, Townsend’s big-eared bat, wolverine, Harlequin duck, Puget Oregonian, Evening Field slug, Oregon megalopteran, warty jumping-slug, shiny tightcoil, and Johnson’s hairstreak (May 27, 2008 Wildlife Report).

There are no fish species in the action area that are currently listed or proposed to be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, nor are there any associated existing or proposed critical habitat listings. There are also no species listed under the Stevens-Magnuson Act for Essential Fish Habitat, or fish species included on the Regional Forester’s List of Sensitive Species for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest within the project area. As a result, the Huckleberry Enhancement project will have “no effect” on federally listed Chinook, bull trout, steelhead, or on designated Chinook or bull trout critical habitats. It will “not adversely affect” Chinook, coho, or pink salmon essential fish habitats, and would have “no impact” on the Region 6 Sensitive fish coho, sockeye, or coastal cutthroat.

The remaining special status fish not previously addressed are pink, chum, and resident cutthroat and rainbow (all MBS management indicator species, as are all the other fish previously addressed). While there are no specific “effect calls” for management indicator species, there would be no effects to pink, chum, or to resident cutthroat or rainbow that

would either affect the long-term viability of the population, or the quality or quantity of their habitats in Meadow Creek or the Greenwater River (June 6, 2008 Fisheries, Hydrology, Soils Specialist Report ).

- **National Historic Preservation Act** – An appropriate inventory has been conducted for this undertaking and property(s) which may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places have been located. Avoidance measures will be implemented per Stipulation III.B.2(a-d) of the 1997 Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the ACHP, WA SHPO, USFS R6, if necessary; therefore the undertaking meets the criteria given in Stipulation III.B.2 of the 1997 PA and may proceed.
- **Clean Air Act** – Fuel generated by the cutting of trees and other vegetation (slash) to enhance big huckleberry production will be treated to a level which reduces fire hazard and improves ungulate forage and migration through the treatment units.

Slash will be treated primarily by hand piling of slash and prescribed burning of the hand piles. Hand piles will not exceed a footprint of 6 feet wide, 6 feet long and 6 feet tall. Hand piles should be covered with clear polyurethane sheeting to ensure piles are dry when optimum pile-burning conditions are prevalent after adequate fall precipitation has fallen to reduce the probability of an escaped prescribed burn. Hand piles will be limited to slash less than 8” in diameter, which reduces residence time of the burning pile, reducing negative effects to air quality.

Broadcast burning of the huckleberry treatment units may also be utilized to enhance vigor and stimulate rhizome sprouting following low intensity fire. Broadcast burning shall be limited to low intensity fire ignited under moist soil or duff conditions to shield big huckleberry rhizomes from lethal temperatures.

The Forest Service will comply with all applicable air quality laws and regulations, and coordinate with appropriate air quality regulatory agencies (June 4, 2008 Fire/Fuels Management Report).

- **Clean Water Act** – The project will not result in any measurable or observable degradation of fish habitat or water quality, nor measurably affect the sediment or flow regimes of any streams in the project area (June 6, 2008 Fisheries, Hydrology, Soils Specialist Report).
- **Invasive Species Management** – There were no invasive plants of serious concern found during surveys (only some ubiquitous species that are so widespread on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest that they are not formally tracked). For this reason, it is assumed that existing infestations of weeds will not spread. It is possible that invasive plants could be introduced (e.g. via wheels of trucks driving into the area if crews are present to burn small piles of cut trees), but it is assumed that introduction of weeds into the area will be prevented through implementation of the standard management practices and mitigation measures listed

in the Project Design Features and Mitigation Measures section above (May 29, 2008 Botanical Resources Report).

- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act** – The project will have long-term beneficial effects on Neotropical Migratory Bird Species (May 27, 2008 Wildlife Report).

### **Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities**

My decision falls under a categorical exclusion that is subject to review and appeal under the provisions of 36 CFR 215. Appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 215.14 (Content of a Notice of Appeal) and must provide sufficient evidence and rationale to show why the Responsible Official's decision should be remanded or reversed.

The appeal must be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer, Attn: 1570 Appeals, 2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 3A, Everett WA 98201; faxed to (425) 782-0314, sent electronically to [appeals-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie@fs.fed.us](mailto:appeals-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie@fs.fed.us); or hand delivered to the above address between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday except legal holidays. The appeal must be postmarked or delivered within 45 days of the date the legal notice for this decision appears in Enumclaw Courier Herald. The publication date of the legal notice in the Enumclaw Courier Herald is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal should not rely on dates or timeframes provided by any other source.

Electronic appeals must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft word, .rtf, or .pdf format only. E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed above, in other formats than those listed, or containing viruses will be rejected. E-mailed appeals must include the project name in the subject line. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Only those who provided comments during the 30-day comment period may appeal. It is the appellant's responsibility to provide sufficient project- or activity-specific evidence and rationale, focusing on the decision, to show why the Responsible Official's decision should be reversed.

It is also the appellant's responsibility to ensure their appeal is received in a timely manner. For electronically mailed appeals, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive such an automated acknowledgement, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

### **Implementation Date**

If an appeal is filed, this decision may not be implemented until 15 days following the date of appeal disposition, depending on the nature of that disposition. If no appeal is filed, the decision may be implemented five days after the close of the appeal period.

## Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact:

Laura Potash Martin, Forest Botanist  
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425-888-1421 x 245.

**JIM FRANZEL**

Date

District Ranger  
Snoqualmie Ranger District

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