
File Code: 1950
Date: March 29, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

The intent of this letter is to share with you a few important updates that have occurred since our last correspondence.

- The nationwide project web link outage that prevented access to our project documents between March 22, 2019 and March 25, 2019 has been resolved. The project web link is now functioning properly.
- A second legal notice has been published in the Union Democrat as of March 29, 2019. This will reset the 45-day and 60-day time periods during which objections must be submitted.
- Information on where to send objections has also been updated in both the legal notice and within this Objection Opportunity Notification letter (see below: **“Where to File an Objection”** section).

As stated previously in the letter dated March 22, I have issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Draft Record of Decision (Draft ROD) for the Stanislaus National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation Project. The FEIS has been modified in response to comments we received during the comment period. The FEIS and Draft ROD are available online at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46311>.

In addition, copies of the FEIS are available at the Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor’s Office, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370 or by contacting Katie Wilkinson. (Contact information provided in last paragraph of this letter).

The Draft Record of Decision would implement Alternative 5-Modified, which would designate: (1) approximately 129,780 acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands on the Stanislaus National Forest for public cross-country OSV use and (2) approximately 83.7 miles of OSV trails, of which 24.7 miles would be available for snow grooming. This alternative would install five temporary winter stream crossings annually and includes snow depth requirements, specified season of use requirements, and provisions for monitoring and enforcement. In addition, Alternative 5-Modified would amend the Stanislaus National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP, 1991) by modifying standards and guidelines associated with Near Natural and Special Interest Area (SIA) management areas, areas closed to motor vehicle travel, restricted motor vehicle management areas, and minimum snow depth requirements.

The Draft ROD is subject to two different objection processes because it includes both a project-level decision as well as a forest plan amendment decision. The project-level decision, which includes all elements of the draft decision except the proposed forest plan amendments, is subject to the objection regulations at 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. The forest plan amendment portion of the decision is subject to the objection regulations at 36 CFR 219, Subpart B. While the two objection processes are similar, there are some important differences as described below.



Who May File an Objection

36 CFR 218 (Project): Individuals or entities who have submitted timely, specific written comments about the proposed project during any designated opportunity for public comment are eligible to file an objection on the Project (36 CFR 218.5(a)).

36 CFR 219 (Forest Plan Amendment): Individuals or entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to the plan amendment during the opportunities for public comment are eligible to file an objection on the forest plan amendment portion of the Project (36 CFR 219.53(a)).

Required Content for an Objection

36 CFR 218 (Project): Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed Project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities. Objections on the Project must include the following information (36 CFR 218.8(d)): (1) Objector's name and address, with telephone number, if available; (2) Objector's (4) project name, Responsible Official name and title (Jason Kuiken, Forest Supervisor, Stanislaus National Forest), and name of affected National Forest and/or Ranger District(s) (Stanislaus National Forest); (5) description of the aspects of the project being objected to, including specific issues related to the proposed project and how the objector believes there is a violation of law, regulation, or policy; (6) specific reasons for, and suggested remedies to resolve, the objection; and (7) description of the connection between the objection and the objector's prior comments, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities to comment. Documents incorporated by reference must adhere to 36 CFR 218.8(b).

36 CFR 219 (Forest Plan Amendment): Objections on the forest plan amendment portion of the Project must include the following information (36 CFR 219.54(c)): (1) Objector's name and address, with telephone number or email address, if available; (2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection); (3) identification of a single lead objector when multiple names are listed on an objection; (4) the name of the plan amendment being objected to and Responsible Official name and title (Jason Kuiken, Forest Supervisor, Stanislaus National Forest); (5) a statement of the issues and/or the parts of the plan amendment to which the objection applies; (6) a concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved; and (7) a statement that demonstrates the link between prior substantive formal comments attributed to the objector and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment. Documents incorporated by reference must adhere to 36 CFR 219.54(b)

Where to File an Objection

The Regional Forester is the reviewing officer for objections filed under 36 CFR 218 and or 36 CFR 219 regulations for this project. Objections must be submitted to: Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service; Attn: Stanislaus National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation; 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592. Objections may be submitted via mail, FAX (707-562-9229), or delivered during business hours (M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Electronic objections, in common (.doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt) formats, may be submitted to: objections-pacificsouthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us with Subject: Stanislaus National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation.



When to File an Objection

36 CFR 218 (Project): Objections on the project-level decision must be submitted within 45 days following the publication of the legal notice in Sonora's Union Democrat. The date of the published legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure evidence of timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer (36 CFR 218.9).

36 CFR 219 (Forest Plan Amendment): Objections on the forest plan amendments must be submitted within 60 days following the publication of the legal notice in Sonora's Union Democrat. The date of the published legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure evidence of timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer (36 CFR 219.56(c)).

Additional information about this Project can be obtained from: Katie Wilkinson, Forest Environmental Coordinator for the Stanislaus National Forest, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370; 209-288-6321 or kkwilkinson@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



JASON KUIKEN
Forest Supervisor