



File Code: 1950
Date: August 13, 2019

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for your interest in the Grouse Bear Management Unit Compliance (Grouse BMU) project located in Boundary and Bonner Counties, Idaho. The Grouse BMU project was designed to manage roads within the Grouse Bear Management Unit to meet compliance with the Idaho Panhandle National Forests' Forest Plan. In order to meet compliance with the Forest Plan, we propose to store approximately 28 miles of roads and close approximately 3 miles of unclassified roads. We also propose to re-route about 2 miles of Forest Road 280 away from Grouse Creek. The project is about 18 miles north of Sandpoint, Idaho. It is near McArthur Lake (Boundary County) on the east side of Highway 95 and northwest of Lunch Peak (Bonner County). The Grouse Bear Management unit is a patchwork of National Forest System lands, State of Idaho lands, commercial timber lands, and private property. The project area is located within portions of T58N R1E Sections 1, 12; T58N R2E Sections 2 thru 10, 15, 16, 17; T59N R1E Sections 1 thru 18, 20 thru 28, 33 thru 36; T59N R1W Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13; T59N R2E Sections 3 thru 11, 14 thru 23, 26 thru 35; T60N R1E Sections 1 thru 36; T60N R1W Sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, 36; T60N R1E Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31, 32, 33 T61N R1E Sections 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36; T61N R2E Section 31.

This project was subject to the predecisional administrative review (objection) process under 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. A legal notice was published in the Coeur d' Alene Press on May 10, 2019, announcing the availability of the Grouse Bear Management Unit Compliance environmental assessment (EA), the Draft Decision Notice (DN) / Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and the opportunity to file an objection during the 45-day objection period. Interested parties who commented during scoping or asked to be on the mailing list were notified by letter regarding the draft DN/FONSI and the objection process.

No objections were received on this project, therefore, the proposed project will be approved in a Decision Notice (36 CFR 218 §218.12(c) (2)).

As the Responsible Official, it is my decision to select Alternative 2 as the Selected Alternative. The rationale for my decision is fully documented in the Decision Notice (DN). The DN, EA and supporting documents are available on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47308>

Additional information can be obtained from Brett Lyndaker, Project Leader, by telephone: (208) 267-6723 or brett.lyndaker@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

JESSIE BERNER
Sandpoint District Ranger