



File Code: 2760
Date: September 21, 2018

Ms. Lenore Heppler
Branch Chief, Land, Mineral, and Energy Resources
Bureau of Land Management, Oregon/Washington State Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Ms. Heppler:

Accompanying this letter is a complete application package for the proposed action known as the Methow Headwaters Protection mineral withdrawal. Based on the information contained in the environmental assessment and all other information analyzed, the Forest Service recommends moving forward with a 20-year withdrawal to protect the area while Congress considers legislation to permanently withdraw the lands, and to protect the value of ecological and recreational resources of the Methow Valley. Legislation was introduced to permanently withdraw 340,079 acres of National Forest System land within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest—Methow Headwaters Protection Act of 2017, S.566, 115th Cong. (2017-2018).

The Forest Service is aware that the temporary segregation will expire on December 29, 2018. The requisite case file items for the Secretary of the Interior's review, pursuant to 43 CFR 2310.3-2 *Development and Processing of the Case File for Submission to the Secretary* are included in entirety in this package. The Forest Service recognizes the team effort that has been needed to respond to this proposed action, and looks forward to collaborating in any way necessary to move toward completion as expeditiously as possible.

Should you have any questions or concerns about any information in this application package, please contact Candice Polisky, of my staff, at 503-808-2479, or at cjpolisky@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tracy Tophooven
TRACY TOPHOOVEN
Director of Recreation, Lands & Minerals

(5) Enclosures

cc: Karen Brand, Jim Lindsey, Mike Williams, Jason Peterson, Jacob Childers, Gianna Vaccaro, Candice Polisky

