



File Code: 1570; 1950  
Date: JUL 12 2019

Dear Interested Party:

The Pacific Northwest (PNW) Region of the USDA Forest Service has prepared an environmental assessment (EA), draft Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the PNW Aquatic Restoration Project (Project). The draft decision for the Project proposes 1,800 aquatic restoration activities across 16 national forests and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in Oregon and Washington. These activities are proposed to start in 2019 and would occur over a 15-year period. The activities were derived from 19 activity categories and associated project design criteria listed in the Aquatic Restoration Biological Opinions issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service in 2012 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2013. Project activities would occur within focus watersheds and priority subwatersheds, based on the Region's Aquatic Restoration Strategy and the National Watershed Condition Framework. The Responsible Official who will issue a decision on this project is Glenn Casamassa, PNW Regional Forester.

The revised EA and draft DN/FONSI are available on-line at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53001>. These documents are also available for review at the PNW Regional Office, 1220 SW Third Avenue, Portland, OR 97204. Additional information regarding this project can be obtained from James Capurso, phone 503-808-2847 or email [james.capurso@usda.gov](mailto:james.capurso@usda.gov).

You previously provided us with comments regarding this proposed project. This letter is to inform you of the 45-day objection filing period on the proposed project. Only individuals or organizations that submitted specific written comments during a designated opportunity for public participation (in this case, during the scoping period or the 30-day public comment period on the draft EA) may object (36 CFR 218.5). Notices of objection must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218.8. Objections can be submitted in writing, either electronically or in hard copy, but must be filed with the Reviewing Officer within 45 days from the date of the publication of notice of the opportunity to object in *The Oregonian* and *The Seattle Times*. The publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to file an objection to the draft decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Minimum requirements of an objection are described at 36 CFR 218.8(d). Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as described at 36 CFR 218.8(b). An objection must include a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns a new issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment.



It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process. Please state the name of the proposed project on the envelope when submitting objections via postal/ground mail services. Written objections, including attachments, must be filed with the Chief of the Forest Service, who will serve as the Reviewing Officer as follows:

Written objections may be submitted electronically to the reviewing officer through the project webpage: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=53001>. Faxed objections must be sent and addressed to "Objection Reviewing Officer" at 503-808-2339 and must include the subject line as noted above. The fax coversheet should specify the number of pages being submitted. Emailed or faxed objections must be received by 11:59:59 pm in the time zone of the Objection Reviewing Officer (Eastern time zone).

Hardcopy objections must be submitted by regular mail to the following address: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, EMC, Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250. Hardcopy objections may also be submitted by carrier (UPS or FedEx) or hand delivery to USDA Forest Service, Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer, 210 14<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, EMC, Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays. Carrier or hand deliveries may call 202-791-8488 during regular business days and hours, above, to coordinate delivery of objections. Hardcopy submissions must include a subject line on page one stating: "Objection regarding the Pacific Northwest Region Aquatic Restoration Project."

Individuals who need to use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) to transmit objections may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the project, please contact James Capurso, Regional Fisheries Biologist, at 503-808-2847 or [james.capurso@usda.gov](mailto:james.capurso@usda.gov).

Thank you for your attention and shared participation in the stewardship of National Forest System Lands of the Pacific Northwest.

Sincerely,

*fw* GLENN P. CASAMASSA  
Regional Forester

cc: James Capurso, Debbie Anderson, Eric Johnston, Julia Riber, Marie-Louise Smith, Alexandra Wenzl, Heidi Hopkins, Scott Peets, Matthew Ehrman