

Posted July 13, 2019

Pacific Northwest Region Aquatic Restoration Project

Notice of Opportunity to Object
Pacific Northwest Region
Aquatic Restoration Project
Region 6,
Pacific Northwest Regional Office

The Pacific Northwest (PNW) Region 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 regions 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.

How to Object and Timeframe

The Project is subject to the pre-decisional objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The opportunity to object ends 45 days following the date of publication of this legal notice in The Oregonian and The Seattle Times. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspapers of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection, and those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment. 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 designated comment opportunities (218.8(c)).

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in 218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in 218.8(b). It is the objectors 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.

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 14th 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.