
File Code: 1950
Date: June 26, 2019

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests,

This letter is to notify you that we have issued a draft decision notice (DN) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the Brebner Flat Project. We have selected the proposed action described in the Brebner Flat Project Environmental Assessment (EA). We appreciate the input we received during the planning and analysis of the project. Your comments have been useful in developing and designing the project and in drafting the decision.

The legal notice announcing the draft decision is scheduled to be published in the newspaper of record, the Coeur d'Alene Press, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on July 1, 2019. A copy of the draft decision is available online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53048> or at the St. Joe Ranger District office in St. Maries, Idaho (refer to contact information below).

About the Project

The 11,779-acre Brebner Flat project area is located directly south of Avery, Idaho, in portions of Benewah and Shoshone Counties. The project area lies directly south of Avery, Idaho and includes the Theriault Creek, Kelly Creek, Williams Creek, and Siwash Creek drainages. Legal description of the project area includes portions of T45N, R5E, Sections 13,14,16,22,24,26,28,34,35,36 BM, T44N, R5E, Sections 1, 2, 11,12 BM, T17N, R32W, Sections 30, 31 BM.

This includes vegetation and road management activities. Vegetation management activities include approximately 1,719 acres of timber harvest. Surface fuels and debris left from timber harvest will be treated through prescribed underburning and machine piling. The harvested areas will be replanted with the appropriate tree species after harvest activities are complete. Road management activities on Forest System Roads include constructing approximately 2 miles of new roads and 4 miles of temporary roads, reconstructing 3 miles of existing roads, maintenance on 48 miles of existing roads, and storing 10 miles of roads or road segments. Approximately 2 miles of roads that are currently not part of the system will be added the National Forest System. Additionally, approximately 1 mile of nonsystem roads, generally old skid trails or brushed-in spurs that are mostly impassable and do not provide legal public access would be decommissioned.

Where to Get more Information

For more details, please refer to the complete EA and draft DN, along with supporting documentation, available online at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53048>. The documents are also available at the St. Joe Ranger District, 222 South 7th Street, St. Maries, Idaho, 83861. Office business hours are: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (closed



for lunch from 12:00-12:30), excluding holidays. For additional information, please contact Beth Reinhart by telephone (208) 245-6034 or by email (mreinhart@fs.fed.us).

How to file an Objection and Timeframe

This decision is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B. A written objection must be submitted to the reviewing officer within 45 calendar days following publication of the legal notice of the objection period in the Coeur d'Alene Press, which is the newspaper of record. It is the responsibility of objectors to ensure their objections are received in a timely manner (36 CFR 218.9(a)). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Objectors should not rely upon time requirements provided by any other source.

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the project during the scoping and opportunity for comment periods in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

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 objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

The following address should be used for objections:

Objection Reviewing Officer
USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays.

Electronic objections must be submitted via an email to appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Please include "Brebner Flat Project Objection" in the subject line. Electronic objections must be submitted in MS Word (.doc or .docx) or rich text format (.rtf) or other format that can be read with optical character recognition software. The number for faxed objections is (406) 329-3411.

The objection must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 218.8(d), and include the following information:

- The objector's name and address, with a telephone number or email address, if available;
- A signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for Email may be filed with the objection);
- When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector as

defined in 36 CFR 218.2 (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request);

- The name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the national forest on which the project will be implemented;
- A description of those aspects of the project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the project and, 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; and supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider;
- A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunity for formal comment.

Incomplete responses to these requirements make review of an objection difficult and are conditions under which the reviewing officer may set aside an objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.10.

When objections are filed, approval of project activities will not occur until the pre-decisional review process is complete and a final decision notice issued. A decision will not be signed until the reviewing officer has responded in writing to all pending objections, and all concerns and instructions identified by the reviewing officer in the objection response have been addressed. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Implementation Date

If no objections are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before the fifth business day following the end of the objection filing period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew A. Davis", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Matthew A. Davis

District Ranger