



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** May 16, 2019

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest,

The U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, is seeking public input on a proposal to amend the Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) for the OOWNF to provide forest plan direction for managing domestic sheep and goat grazing within the range of bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) to better provide for forest-wide bighorn sheep viability in the context of range management. The OOWNF is gathering information necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the effects of changing or adding plan components.

A notice of intent to publish an environmental impact statement is expected to be published in the Federal Register on May 17, 2019, starting a 45-day public scoping and comment period for this project. During this public scoping period, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest will host one online public webinar and one public meeting to provide information on the proposal and opportunities to participate in the planning process.

**Public online webinar:**

- **Date and Time:** May 23, 2019 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm PDT
- **How to Connect:** Please see the project website below for webinar login information.
- **Format:** The presentation is expected to last approximately 25 minutes, and the remainder of the time will be for questions and answers.

**Public meeting:**

- **Date and Time:** June 12, 2019 from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm PDT
- **Location:** Cle Elum Ranger District, Tom Craven Conference Room, 803 ½ W 2nd Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922
- **Format:** There will be a presentation of the proposed action starting at 6:00 pm, with opportunities to view project information and discuss the proposed action with forest staff after the presentation.

Project background information, [GIS story map](#), and other documents are available on the project web site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53257>

**How to Comment**

Comments on this project are requested for a period of 45 days to help identify issues related to the proposed action and develop alternatives. Comments that address specific aspects of the proposed action,



identify alternative ways of meeting the purpose and need for the project, or provide suggested language for forest plan direction will be most useful.

We are interested in your comments on the following questions:

- Are there other ways to better meet the purpose of the project which you would like us to consider and analyze?
- What important and/or local information would you like us to consider?
- How would this project affect you and the things you value?

Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, the Forest Service will not be able to send further project information to anonymous commenters.

**Please submit comments using one of the following methods:**

• **Submit comments online via the project's public participation portal (preferred):**

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=53257>

• **Send comments via mail to:**

Domestic Sheep and Goat Grazing EIS Comments, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor's Office, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

The Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to inform the responsible official's decision. If the responsible official decides to amend the Forest Plans, it will be amended under provisions of the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219, Subpart A). Substantive requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule that are likely to be applicable to the amendment are: 219.8(a)(1)(ii) Contributions of the plan area to ecological conditions within the broader landscape influenced by the plan area; 219.8(b)(1) Social, cultural, and economic conditions relevant to the area influenced by the plan; 219.9(a)(2)(i) Key characteristics associated with terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem types; and 219.10(a)(7) Reasonably foreseeable risks to ecological, social, and economic sustainability.

The decision will be subject to the objection regulations for land management planning (36 CFR 219, Subpart B). Individuals and entities who submit timely, specific written comments during any designated opportunity for public comment will have standing to file an objection. This includes this initial scoping period as well as the 90-day comment period for the Draft EIS, expected to begin in January 2020. Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

**For further information**, please contact Darren Goodding, Forest Environmental Coordinator/Planner, at 509-664-9232 or [darren.goodding@usda.gov](mailto:darren.goodding@usda.gov).

Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,



SCOTT TANGENBERG  
Forest Supervisor