United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests
Blue Ridge Ranger District
2042 Highway 515 West
Blairsville, GA 30512
706-745-6928
Fax: 706-745-7494

File Code: 1950
Date: August 7, 2019

Dear Forest Stakeholder:

The Blue Ridge Ranger District of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests has prepared an environmental assessment (EA), draft Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the **Union County Target Range Project**. You are receiving this letter because you previously submitted comments regarding this project during our environmental analysis process.

The decision authorizes Union County Government to construct a target range on National Forest lands contingent upon USFS approval of a Special Use Permit and associated Environmental Stewardship Plan that defines the planning, implementation and monitoring requirements for the Target Range. The project consists of construction of a pole barn type structure, vaulted toilets, earthen backstops, road construction and a parking lot. Union County Government will be the primary permit holder and will assume the responsibility of funding, maintenance and operation. However, the Union County Gun Club will oversee the day to day operation of the target range. The proposed project or activity is subject to the pre-decisional objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

The EA and draft DN/FONSI are available on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests website at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54559. Also, these documents are available for review at the Forest Supervisor's Office at 1755 Cleveland Hwy, Gainesville, Ga., 30501. Additional information regarding this project or activity can be obtained by contacting Jerome Bennett and/or Nelson Gonzalez-Süllow by phone at 770-297-3000.

How to Object and Timeframe

The opportunity to object ends 45 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in North Georgia News (Blairsville, Georgia) and The News Observer (Blue Ridge, Georgia), whichever is later. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Objections received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who object, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period, unless based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities. Interested individuals or entities who have not previously commented may gain limited eligibility to object based on new information, but only for issues that arise based on new information where that information is truly new and was not available during the designated public comment opportunity.

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.

At a minimum, the objection must include the following:

- List the name, address, and if possible, a telephone number of the objector;
- Provide a signature or other verification of authorship (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- Identify the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection;
- Provide the name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the National Forest(s) and/or ranger district on which the project is located;
- A statement of the issues and/or the parts of the project to which the objection applies;
- If applicable, a statement explaining how the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies; and supporting reasons; and
- A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment.

Objections may be made directly on the Union County Target Range Project webpage: https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54559 by selecting the **"Comment/Object on Project"** link in the "**Get Connected**" group at the right hand side of the project webpage. Attachments may be in the following formats: plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc, .docx), or portable document format (.pdf). Electronic objections can also submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to **objections-southern-chattahoochee-oconee@fs.fed.us.**

Written objections may also be made. The written objection, including attachments, must be filed with: Betty Jewett, Forest Supervisor, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, 1755 Cleveland Highway, Gainesville, Ga., 30501, (706)-297-3000. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 9:00 am to 12:00, 1:00 to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

Please state "Union County Target Range Project" in the subject line when providing electronic objections, or on the envelope when replying by mail. For information about the objection process, contact Nelson González-Süllow, (770) 297-3051, or at nelson.gonzalez-sullow@usda.gov

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.

Sincerely,

ANDREW L. BAKER

District Ranger