



News Release

Forest Service

Payette National Forest
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Public Scoping Period Open for Sloans Point Forest Resilience Good Neighbor Authority Project - Public Meeting set for February 18, 2020

McCall, ID, February 06, 2020 – The Payette National Forest is seeking public comment on the Sloans Point Forest Resilience Good Neighbor Authority Project on the McCall Ranger District of the Payette National Forest. A public meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2020 from 5:00 to 7:00p.m. at the Forest Supervisors office (500 North Mission Street, McCall, Idaho 83638). Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands personnel will be available to share information and answer questions.

The Forest proposes to manage forest structure and species composition to recover from insect and disease disturbances, and improve forest landscape resiliency. Activities would restore species composition, stand structure and size classes, and reduce undesirable species and stand densities while favoring the retention of larger diameter, seral trees throughout the project area. Visit the project webpage at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57337>

These proposed treatments would occur on up to 2,272 acres with activities including commercial thinning, non-commercial thinning, prescribed burning, riparian treatments, and transportation system work.

For this project, the Forest Service is partnering with the Idaho Department of Lands through the Good Neighbor Authority, which enables the Forest Service to achieve restoration and resilient landscape objectives through cooperative agreements. This cooperative effort will help improve forest health in the Sloans Point project area while simultaneously creating jobs and economic benefits.

A preliminary assessment of the project has determined it falls within a Categorical Exclusion as authorized by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, specifically section 603 regarding insect and disease to reduce the extent of, or increase resilience. This project will adhere to the specifications of that authority. As a categorical exclusion, no additional designated public comment periods for this project would occur, so this “scoping” phase is the best opportunity for public input. The scoping period for comments will close March 2, 2020.

To assist the Forest Service in meeting its goals of reducing our carbon footprint and to achieve a sustainable operation, we are now using a web-based electronic comment system that allows all interested parties to receive project materials (scoping documents, updates, NEPA documents, and decisions) and submit comments through the project website.

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To subscribe to receive email notifications about this project, go online to the project website listed above. On the project website, you will see a box titled "Get Connected" on the right-hand side of the page. Click on "Subscribe to Email Updates." When you click on that item, you will be prompted to provide your e-mail address and select a password in the GovDelivery program. When you have logged in, you will be able to manage your account by subscribing to projects by Forest, District, project type, or project purpose. You will also be able to change your e-mail address and password. If you no longer wish to follow the projects, simply delete your subscription. Once you are subscribed, you will receive all project information via e-mail, unless you request hard copies. Only those who subscribe to the GovDelivery mailing list or submit comments will receive future correspondence on this project.

To submit comments using the web form, select "Comment/Object on Project" under "Get Connected" on the right panel of the project website. The comment portal is only open during public comment periods, and submitted comments are available for public viewing in the Public Comment Reading Room.

Comments may also be submitted in hardcopy to Acting District Ranger Ann Hadlow at McCall District Office (102 West Lake Street, McCall, Idaho 83638) or hand delivered to the District Office during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday, excluding holidays.

Comments received in response to this request will be released in their entirety if requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

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