



File Code: 2410

Date: February 21, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

The Forest Service is seeking your input regarding a vegetation management proposal on the Dolores Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest (SJNF). The project area is located northeast of Dolores, CO on the Dolores Ranger District. Proposed treatment areas are in the vicinity of Salter Y, Plateau Creek, Carlyle Point, Turkey Knoll, and Boggy Draw. This project is proposed in order to 1) improve or maintain the resistance and resiliency of ponderosa pine forest ecosystems, 2) increase the diversity of ponderosa pine forest ecosystem development stages and, 3) provide economic support to local communities by providing timber products to local industries in a sustainable manner. The Salter Vegetation Management project proposes treatment on approximately 35,000 acres of ponderosa pine forest.

Enclosed, please find the scoping package and associated map. The District is seeking information and comments from individuals, Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, and organizations that may be interested in or affected by this proposal. We encourage you to submit substantive comments on this initial proposed action, accompanied by supporting reasons that the responsible official should consider in issuing a decision. We also welcome your questions on the need for action or any aspect of the initial proposed action that is unclear. Comments will help us identify issues and develop alternatives to the proposal as outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on your comments, the project interdisciplinary team will refine the proposed action or develop additional alternatives and conduct an analysis of the proposal. The final decision is expected in September 2020 and will determine whether to conduct the activities described here, and in what manner.

The 30-day scoping comment period will begin on Friday, February 21, 2020. Electronic comments can be submitted through the electronic comment form located on the project webpage. Comments may also be submitted by means of written comment via the U.S. Postal Service or hand delivered, facsimile, by telephone, or in person. Comments should include: 1) your name and postal address, 2) project title (Salter Vegetation Management), and 3) signature or other verification of identity upon request (36 CFR 218.25(a)(3)). Comments received in response to this initial request, including names, addresses, and any other information provided with the comments, will be considered a part of the public record.

This project is authorized under 36 CFR 218 subparts A and B. This rule provides for a pre-decisional objection process, whereby the public is provided an opportunity to comment and express concerns on projects before decisions are made, rather than after. Following preparation and distribution of the draft environmental analysis, a 30-day comment period will be available for you to provide additional comments prior to completion of a final environmental analysis and draft decision notice. A 45-day objection period will follow publication of the final



environmental analysis and draft decision notice. If no objections are received during that period, the final decision will be signed and may be implemented after five business days. If objections are received on this project there will be a 45-day period for resolutions of the identified issues prior to signature and implementation.

For questions or to discuss the project further please contact David Casey, Timber Staff Officer at 970-882-7296 or djcasey@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek Padilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small blue dot above the letter "i" in "Padilla".

DEREK J. PADILLA
District Ranger