



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Dolores Ranger District
San Juan National Forest

29211 Hwy 184
Dolores, CO 81323-9308
Phone 970-882-7296
Fax 970-882-0175
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan>

File Code: 2410

Date: February 10, 2021

Dear Interested Party:

The Dolores Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest has released a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the *Salter Vegetation Management* project.

The proposed project consists of vegetation management activities on approximately 22,346 acres of ponderosa pine-Gambel oak vegetation type within an approximately 35,000 acre analysis area. The overall project objectives are 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 proposed project is located northeast of Dolores, CO in the vicinity of Salter Y, Plateau Creek, Carlyle Point, Turkey Knoll, and Boggy Draw.

The draft EA describes the proposed action in more detail and provides a summary of potential effects of the project on various resources. The draft EA, along with other project documents, is available for review at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57671>. The district is seeking comments on the environmental analysis associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

For this project, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) are being conducted concurrently. In order to better involve the public in the NHPA process, NEPA notification letters and public legal notices invite public comment on the proposal as stipulated by NHPA.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The *Salter Vegetation Management* project would implement the San Juan National Forest's existing Land and Resource Management Plan; it is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. The public is encouraged to provide specific written comments (§218.2) on this analysis for the responsible official to consider. Specific comments should be within the scope of and have a direct relationship to the proposed action.

Written comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in *The Journal* (Cortez, Colorado). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period (anticipated date February 10, 2021). The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Only those who submit timely and specific written comments during this formally designated comment period will have eligibility to file an objection under §218.8. Issues raised in objections



must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunity. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in §218.25(a)(3), including that each individual or representative from each entity submitting the comments must provide the name and postal address of the individual or entity submitting the comment, and either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Comments should also include the project title (*Salter Vegetation Management*). Names, contact information, and the comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Comments must be received by the end of the comment period and may be submitted as follows:

Electronic comments can be submitted through the electronic comment form located on the project webpage – <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57671>

Comments may also be submitted via the U.S. Postal Service or facsimile (970 882-0175)..

For questions or to discuss the project further please contact David Casey, Supervisory Forester at 970-882-7296 or David.casey2@usda.gov

Thank you for your interest in this project and management of the San Juan National Forest.

Sincerely,

DEREK J. PADILLA
District Ranger