



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Flathead
National
Forest

650 Wolfpack Way
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-5200
Fax (406) 758-5367

File Code: 1950

Date: September 21, 2018

Dear Interested Party,

The Final Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (Final DN/FONSI) for the Glacier Loon Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project (Glacier Loon Project) is now available. The Final DN/FONSI can be found on the web at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=36946>. To request a paper copy of the decision, please contact Michele Draggoo at (406)758-5269 or 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, MT 59901, or by emailing mdraggoo@fs.fed.us.

The project area is located in the Swan River Valley, south and west of Condon on the west side of Montana Highway 83 to the south end of Lindbergh Lake. All management activities included in the decision occur on National Forest System (NFS) lands within Missoula County.

The decision identifies Alternative D, with modifications, as the Selected Alternative. The decision will reduce fuels and improve forest health on approximately 1,397 acres of NFS lands. Treatments will include approximately 1,157 acres of fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface (WUI) and 240 acres outside the WUI using a variety of treatment methods. Best management practices will be implemented on approximately 29.3 miles of haul routes and on approximately 5.9 miles of temporary roads that will be constructed. Temporary roads will be reclaimed following their use. Road decommissioning will also occur on an estimated 8.4 miles of roads. In addition, hand planting will occur on approximately 305 acres. For further details regarding project activities please review Appendix 1 of the Final DN/FONSI.

A site-specific amendment to the Flathead Forest Plan to change the Management Area (MA) for a portion of the project area is also included in the decision. This area of this change is along Lindbergh Lake, including the highly visible portions of the project area from the lakeshore to the slope break, and totals approximately 221 acres. The decision will change 213 acres from MA 15 (timberlands where timber management with roads is economical and feasible as currently assigned) to MA 5 (roaded timberlands in areas of high scenic value). The other 8 acres will be changed from MA 15C (timberlands with emphasis on white-tailed deer summer range) to MA 5.

This project completed the pre-decisional administrative review process pursuant to 36 CFR 218. Four objections to the project were received. In response to these objections, the acting deputy regional forester issued two instructions to the Forest. A discussion on these instructions and how they were addressed can be found in the Final DN.

Sincerely,

Chip Weber
Forest Supervisor

