

Dear Interested Party,

The Payette National Forest has completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Middle Fork Weiser River Landscape Restoration Project and has prepared a draft Record of Decision (ROD). The Middle Fork Weiser River Project proposes landscape restoration treatments on approximately 24,000 acres on the Council Ranger District of the Payette National Forest. Proposed restoration activities include timber harvest, biomass harvest, road reconstruction, road realignment, temporary road construction, road decommissioning, culvert removal, thinning of sub-merchantable trees, prescribed fire, and other actions. The Project also proposes managing recreation use in the Project area, with an emphasis on improving developed and dispersed recreation areas, improving and realigning existing trails, and developing new trail opportunities. The Responsible Official who will issue a decision on this project is Forest Supervisor, Keith Lannom. A hard copy of the FEIS and additional information regarding this proposed project can be obtained by contacting : Mark Fox (project lead), 2092 Highway 95, Council, Idaho, 83612, (208)253-0164, mrfox@fs.fed.us.

The Draft EIS was originally released for public comment on February 19, 2016. It has now been finalized in response to the comments received. The final EIS, appendices, and draft ROD and other additional information are available for review at the project webpage at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=41687>. Persons interested in receiving updates about this project may subscribe to GovDelivery for project updates via email by clicking the link “Subscribe to Email Updates” on the right side of the project web page.

This proposed project is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subpart B. This project is not related to the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Act (HFRA). The Intermountain Regional Forester is the Objection Reviewing Officer.

Eligibility to File Objections

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project either during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with § 218.5(a). 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 designated opportunities.

Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual. Objections received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only. If an objection is submitted on behalf of a number of individuals or organizations, each individual or organization listed must meet the eligibility requirement of having previously submitted comments on the project (§ 218.7). Names and addresses of objectors will become part of the public record.

Contents of an Objection

Incorporation of documents by reference in the objection is permitted only as provided for at § 218.8(b). Minimum content requirements of an objection are identified in § 218.8(d) include:

- *Objector’s name and address with a telephone number if available; with signature or other verification of authorship supplied upon request;*
- *Identification of the lead objector when multiple names are listed, along with verification upon request;*
- *Name of project, name and title of the responsible official, national forest/ranger district where project is located, and*

- *Sufficient narrative description of those aspects of the proposed project objected to, specific issues related to the project, how environmental law, regulation, or policy would be violated, and suggested remedies which would resolve the objection.*
- *Statement demonstrating the connection between prior specific written comments on this project and the content of the objection, unless the objection issue arose after the designated opportunity(ies) for comment.*

Filing an Objection

Written objections, including any attachments, may be submitted to the reviewing officer through the project web page: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=41687>. Simply click on “Comment /Object on Project” on the right side of the page and fill out the web form with your comments. Written objections, including any attachments, may also be addressed to Reviewing Officer, Intermountain Region USFS, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401; or fax to 801-625-5277. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections may also be submitted in a format such as an email message, pdf, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc or .docx) to objections-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Objections must be submitted within 45 days following the publication date of this legal notice in the newspaper of record. It is the responsibility of Objectors to ensure their objection is received in a timely manner (§ 218.9).

This notification is for interested parties that have signed up to be notified of Project updates. The publication date in the Idaho Statesman, newspaper of record, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection to this project. Those wishing to object to this proposed project should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

We anticipate the legal notice will be published on **May 19th, 2017**. It is also anticipated that the Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register the same date.

Thank you for your continued interest in land management on the Payette National Forest.

Sincerely,

Keith B. Lannom

KEITH B. LANNOM
Forest Supervisor