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REQUEST FOR OBJECTIONS USDA Forest Service Mt. Baker Ranger District Whatcom County, Washington Excelsior Mine Plan of Operations Project The Mt. Baker Ranger District has completed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Excelsior Mine Plan of Operations project. The project is now subject to a 45-day objection period prior to final decision. The District has prepared a draft Decision Notice-Finding of No Significant Impact (DN-FONSI) for review. It describes the selected alternative, and provides rationale for it. Both documents are available on the project website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=43458>; at the Mt. Baker Ranger District Office; and from the project team leader (contact information below). Project implementation would authorize the restoration, use, and maintenance of an existing non-system temporary road within the Mt. Baker (north) Inventoried Roadless Area. In addition, the project would authorize mine maintenance and underground sampling. The Responsible Official for this project is District Ranger Erin Uloth. The project website is the primary source of information about the project. The project is now subject to pre- decisional administrative review (objection process) pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR 218 subpart B. Objections will be accepted for 45 days following publication of this legal notice. This publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the objection period. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the responsibility of persons providing objections to submit them by the close of the objection period. Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific and timely written comments regarding the proposed project during a designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5. Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided for in 36 CFR 218.8(b). Minimum requirements of an objection are described at 36 CFR 218.8(d). An objection must include: the objectors name and address with a telephone number, if available; a signature or other verification of authorship; the name of the proposed project, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the national forest or ranger district on which the proposed project will be implemented; a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment. Objections should be submitted to Objection Reviewing Officer, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N.F., Forest Supervisor, 2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 3A, Everett, WA 98201. Electronic submissions are preferred and may be submitted by completing the form available online at: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=43458>. The objection filing form can also be accessed by clicking on the "Comment/Object on Project" link on the right sidebar of the project website. Objections may also be mailed or delivered by hand to

the address provided above (office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday except legal holidays) or faxed to Attn: 1570 Objections at (425) 783-0141 (specify the number of pages being submitted). Objections filed by mail must be postmarked no later than the last day of the 45-day period. If no objections are filed within the 45-day time period, the DN may be signed after the 5th business day from the close of the objection filing period and project implementation may begin immediately. If one or more objections is filed, there will be a 45-day objection response period. The final DN may be signed, and the project implemented, after the close of this period and when all objections are heard. For further information, contact Erin Uloth, District Ranger, (360) 854-2601; or Todd Griffin, ID Team Leader, (425) 783-6033.

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