



Date: June 22, 2016

This notice is to update you on the status of the Goat Mountain Thinning Project on the Clackamas River Ranger District. This project in the Mt. Hood National Forest is located in T.4 S., R.5 E.; T.5 S., R.4 E.; T.5 S., R.5 E; WM, Clackamas County, Oregon. The proposed action includes the following (quantities are approximate).

- Variable density thinning on 2,754 acres
- Falling trees into streams to provide needed woody debris
- Managing certain areas for forest products such as firewood, boughs, beargrass and poles
- Scenic vistas will be enhanced by removing small trees that are growing along the road edge and are beginning to block the view
- Restoring shooting areas that are unsafe or have resource damage and reshaping three rock quarries to better accommodate target shooting
- Rehabilitating areas damaged by OHV use. The proposed action also includes blocking the entrances of temporary roads and skid trails created by logging to reduce the likelihood that user created OHV routes would develop.
- Decommissioning 0.5 mile of system roads
- Stormproofing 34.8 miles of system roads and close 16 miles of system roads that are currently open
- Reconstructing and rehabilitating 8.4 miles of existing temporary roads and existing road alignments
- Constructing and rehabilitating 1.4 miles of new temporary roads
- Repairing and maintaining 60 miles of system roads including culvert replacement

The legal notice for the 30-day comment period for this project was published in The Oregonian on January 29, 2016. Comments were considered and an Environmental Assessment and a Draft Decision Notice have been prepared.

The Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision Notice can be downloaded from the Forest web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/mthood/landmanagement/projects>. The Responsible Official is Jackie Groce, the District Ranger, Clackamas River Ranger District.

This project is subject to predecisional administrative review pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subpart B. Also called the “objection process.” The full text of the rule can be found at the following website. http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/applit/includes/20130327_218FinalRuleFedReg.pdf

Only individuals or entities that submitted timely, specific written comments during a designated opportunity for public participation (scoping or the 30-day public comment period) may object (36 CFR 218.5). Notices of objection must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218.8. Objections



must be filed with the Reviewing Officer within 45 days from the date of publication of notice of the opportunity to object in The Oregonian. The publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to file an objection to this draft decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Objections sent by U.S. Postal Service or other private carrier must be post marked or date stamped before the close of the objection period and must be received before the close of the fifth business day after the close of the objection filing period.

Incorporation of documents by reference is not allowed, except for the following list of items that may be referenced by including date, page, and section of the cited document, along with a description of its content and applicability to the objection: 1) all or any part of a federal law or regulation; 2) Forest Service directives and land management plans; 3) documents referenced by the Forest Service in the subject EA; or 4) comments previously provided to the Forest Service by the objector during public involvement opportunities for the proposed project where written comments were requested by the responsible official. All other documents must be included with the objection.

Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after the opportunities for comment. The burden is on the objector to demonstrate compliance with this requirement for objection issues.

Minimum requirements of an objection area described at 218.8(d). An objection must include 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 may be submitted several ways:

- Postal Delivery: Forest Supervisor, Objection Reviewing Officer, Mt. Hood National Forest, 16400 Champion Way, Sandy OR 97055.
- Emailed to: objections-pnw-mthood@fs.fed.us. Please put OBJECTION and the project name in the subject line. Electronic objections must be submitted as part of an actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. E-mails submitted to addresses other than the ones listed above or in formats other than those listed above or containing viruses will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the objector to confirm receipt of objections submitted by electronic mail. For electronically mailed objections, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of receipt, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

- Hand deliveries: Mt. Hood National Forest Headquarters Office, 16400 Champion Way, Sandy OR 97055. Hand deliveries can occur between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM (closed 11:30 to 12:30), Monday through Friday except legal holidays.

or

- Faxed to: Forest Supervisor, Attn: Objections to 503-668-1413

The objection is due by August 8, 2016.

For further information regarding objection procedures, contact Michelle Lombardo at 503-668-1796 or by email at mlombardo@fs.fed.us.