

Decision Memo
Clackamas Fires Danger Tree Abatement
Developed Recreation and Administrative Sites

USDA Forest Service
Mt. Hood National Forest
Clackamas River Ranger District
Clackamas, Marion, and Jefferson Counties, Oregon

Introduction

The Clackamas River Ranger District is proposing to remove damaged trees at developed recreation areas, and administrative sites that were affected by the Riverside and Lionshead Fires that burned in September 2020. The portions of the District affected by the fires are currently closed to public access due to the dangerous conditions and the abundance of burned trees that are falling and likely to continue to fall from decay and storm events. In order to open developed recreation areas, and administrative sites that are currently closed, the District needs to mitigate the safety concerns associated with the fire-damaged trees. If safe access at developed recreation and administrative sites is not addressed in a timely manner, the affected areas would likely remain closed for the long term. During scoping, we had anticipated issuing one decision for these areas as well as roadside danger trees, however, most roads have been split out and will be addressed in a separate decision document. Where roads are part of developed recreation sites or administrative sites including their associated parking areas, they remain in this decision.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this project is to remedy safety issues associated with fire-damaged trees so that recreation areas and administrative sites can be opened to the public and for administrative access.

This proposal is rooted in our agency's core value of safety, which has been codified in our policy direction for ensuring danger and hazard trees are mitigated at administrative and developed recreation sites. For example, agency direction indicates that danger and hazard trees will be managed for safe use and that safety is the predominant consideration in facility operation and maintenance, taking priority over biological or other considerations (R6 Supplement FSM 2300-2011-1). There is similar guidance emphasizing safety for work areas and roadside danger tree management (R6 Supplement FSM-7730-2007-2, 7733.03). This policy presents land managers with a set of binary options: where dangers exist, they must be eliminated, or the area needs to be closed. Most of the area within the fire perimeters has been closed to the public since September 2020 because of the dangers posed by fire damaged trees. Therefore, there is a critical maintenance need to reduce risks through the felling of these trees at developed recreation sites and at administrative facilities.

Proposed Action

In order to meet the purpose and need, the District is proposing to cut fire-killed and fire-damaged trees that are within striking distance of recreation areas and administrative sites including their associated roads and parking areas.

Some trees may be cut and left on-site, and others may be removed from the site where appropriate. Residual slash may be treated in some areas.

This project falls within categories of actions that are excluded from documentation in an environmental analysis or environmental impact statement. Specifically, this project is covered by the following categories: repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities (36 CFR 220.6(d)(5)), and repair and maintenance of administrative sites (36 CFR 220.6(d)(3)). Project design criteria are included in a document titled [Clackamas Fires Danger Tree Abatement Project Design Criteria](#).

Developed Recreation Areas

Many campgrounds and trailheads were impacted by the fires. In some, all of the infrastructure was burned including toilets, tables, and signs. Reconstruction of facilities will be addressed in a separate document. This project specifically includes treating fire-damaged trees using the region's hazard tree field guide.

- All developed recreation sites and trailheads with primary access from Highway 224, including Lazy Bend Campground, Moore Creek Boat Access Site, Big Eddy Day Use Site, Carter Bridge Campground, Lockaby Campground, Armstrong Campground, Hole in the Wall Boat Access Site, Roaring River Campground, Sunstrip Campground, Sandstone Bridge Boat Access Site, and Alder Flat Trailhead (Trail #574)
- Fish Creek Campground and Fish Creek Trailhead/Boat Launch (Trail #715)
- Indian Henry Campground and Clackamas River Trailhead (Trail #715)
- Ripplebrook Campground
- Rainbow Campground and Riverside Trailhead (Trail #723)
- Riverside Campground and Riverside Trailhead (Trail #723)
- Hillockburn Trailhead (Trail #516)
- Memaloose Lake Trailhead (Trail #515)
- Cripple Creek Trailhead (Trail #703)
- Red Lake Trailhead (Trail #719)
- Lower Lake Campground and Fish Lake Trailhead (Trail #717)
- All developed recreation sites and trailheads surrounding Olallie Lake, including Paul Dennis Campground, Olallie Lake Lodge, Camp Ten Campground, and Peninsula Campground
- Horseshoe Lake Campground and Horseshoe Saddle Trailhead (Trail #712)
- Pacific Crest Trailhead at Breitenbush Lake (Trail #2000)

Administrative Sites

Many structures at administrative sites were burned including the Ripplebrook Work Compound, Oak Grove Work Compound, Three Lynx Village, Timber Lake Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, Lazy Bend facility, seed orchards, and the Whalehead communication site. Safe access to these sites is critical to their continued use, rehabilitation, or decommissioning.

Guidance Used

The terms *Danger Trees* and *Hazard Trees* are sometimes used interchangeably. But as described below, they are slightly different and guided by different management direction. For simplicity's sake, most of the planning documents use the term *Danger Trees* even though it is recognized that during implementation, the Hazard Tree Guide will be used for developed recreation sites. The following documents represent a compilation of the best science for post-fire danger and hazard tree infrastructure management.

- The Pacific Northwest Region has guidelines for identifying danger trees using the *Field Guide for Danger Tree Identification and Response along Forest Roads and Work Sites in Oregon and Washington* (Filip 2016). This guide sets out a step by step process for determining if a tree is a danger.
- The Pacific Northwest Region has guidelines for identifying Hazard Trees in developed recreation areas. These guidelines are in *The Field Guide for Hazard Tree Identification and Mitigation on Developed Sites in Oregon and Washington Forests* (Filip 2014) and guidance for use is in R6 Hazard Tree Policy for Publicly Managed Recreation Opportunities FSM 2300 R6 Supplement No.: 2300-2011-1.
- *The Post-fire Assessment of Tree Status and Marking Guidelines for Conifers of Oregon and Washington* (Hood 2020) represents the most recent science and information directly associated with predicting post-fire tree mortality in Oregon and Washington.
- This project was designed with consideration of Forest Service guidance that includes but is not limited to *Rapid Assessment Team* recommendations (USDA 2020a); *Guidance on Danger Tree Assessments and Predicting Post-Fire Tree Mortality* (USDA 2020b); Forest Service Manual, R6 Supplement No.: 7730-2007-2, TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, CHAPTER 30 – OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, June 8, 2007; and Forest Service Handbook, FSH 7709.59 - ROAD SYSTEM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE HANDBOOK, CHAPTER 40 - HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM, February 2, 2009.

Danger Tree Criteria

This project includes most dead trees plus live trees that would be classified as having imminent or likely failure potential within striking distance of developed recreation areas and administrative sites including their associated roads and parking areas. Use of these criteria will ensure that trees would only be cut that represent a danger of causing property damage, injury, or death – and thus must be removed for developed recreation site maintenance and administrative site maintenance. The following describes some of the rationale for those choices.

Dead Trees

The project includes most dead trees within striking distance regardless of the time frame when they may fail. It is appropriate for efficiency to deal with all the dead trees in one operation instead of coming back multiple times to assess which trees may or may not fail in a wind event. Although it is not possible to predict when or during what wind event a tree may fail, dead trees are becoming more structurally unstable as time goes by. Delaying treatment of dead trees can lead to conditions that are unsafe for fallers. The inclusion of dead trees was further supported by the analysis that shows that snags are not in short supply in the burned landscape. Millions of large snags were created by the fires; more than enough to meet the needs of snag dependent species. Felling the dead trees would not measurably impact dependent species.

Trees with Green

The project includes all danger or hazard trees classified as having imminent and likely failure potential, even some that have some green leaves or needles. This includes live trees that have defects rendering them structurally unstable as well those that have some level of predictable delayed mortality due to the fire. Although the vast majority of the danger trees are dead, there are some trees that show some green even though they are dead or will be dead very soon. These trees may have a high probability of failure within 5 years.

Some live fire-damaged trees are being retained in hope that they may survive in the long term, balanced with the need for operational efficiency to deal with trees likely to fail within 5 years.

Administrative Sites

For administrative sites, it is appropriate for feasibility and efficiency to deal with these danger trees in one operation whenever possible instead of coming back each year to assess which trees have become structurally unstable and may fail in a wind event, or even in the absence of wind. The following is the rationale I used for seeking this efficiency.

- Fire-damaged trees can change very quickly from appearing be alive to being obviously dead. And similarly, dead trees can deteriorate very quickly from one that appears stable to one where tops break out in a wind event.
- Delaying treatment of dead trees can lead to dangerous conditions for fallers due to increased decay. Tops or large branches could break out and strike a faller. As trees decay it becomes increasingly difficult to fall them in the desired direction.
- The Forest does not have sufficient trained staff to do an annual assessment of danger trees at administrative sites.
- The Forest also does not have sufficient staff to annually assemble contracts for bidding or to administer those contracts.
- The Forest does not have sufficient funding to pay for the extra cost of multiple repeat efforts when the work could be completed with one operation.
- Annual repeat operations would make decisions about the need for fuel cleanup difficult as debris would accumulate annually.

For these reasons, it makes sense to accomplish as much of the work as possible in one operation.

In the absence of other risk factors, trees within striking distance of administrative sites would be retained if the crown scorch or bark char are at or below the figures in the following table. Other risk factors would be addressed as described in the guides above which may include, but are not limited to, root rots, root damage, stem decay, or insect attack.

Table 1 General Forest Criteria (Adopted from Hood 2020)

Species	Criteria	5–11.9 inches diameter	12–20.9 inches diameter	21-35 inches diameter	>35 inches diameter
Douglas-fir	Crown Scorch	80%	80%	80%	80%
Douglas-fir	Bark Char	50% deep char	75% deep char	75% deep char	75% deep char
True fir	Crown Scorch	30%	30%	40%	40%
True fir	Bark Char	50% any char	50% any char	50% any char	50% any char
Spruce	Crown Scorch	75%	75%	75%	75%
Spruce	Bark Char	75% any char	75% any char	75% any char	75% any char
Cedar	Crown Scorch	30%	55%	75%	85%
Cedar	Bark Char	50% any char	50% any char	50% any char	50% any char
White Pine	Crown Scorch	55%	55%	55%	55%
White Pine	Bark Char	75% any char	75% any char	75% any char	75% any char
Lodgepole pine	Crown Scorch	40%	40%	40%	40%
Lodgepole pine	Bark Char	75% any char	75% any char	75% any char	75% any char
Hemlock	Crown Scorch	20%	20%	20%	20%
Hemlock	Bark Char	75% any char	75% any char	75% any char	75% any char

Developed Recreation Areas

Within developed recreation sites such as campgrounds, a slightly different approach is used. All developed recreation sites are inspected annually for hazard trees. Because of the intensity of regular inspections, some trees that will die in the near future, would be retained for now, but would be felled eventually when they die or become hazardous. In developed recreation sites, all dead trees within striking distance of facilities, campsites, access roads, and parking areas would be felled. In the absence of other risk factors, trees would be retained if the crown scorch or bark char are at or below the figures in the following table because they may survive for a while and because they will be assessed annually. Other risk factors would be addressed as described in the guides above which may include, but are not limited to, root rots, root damage, stem decay, or insect attack.

Table 2 Developed Recreation Site Criteria (Adopted from Hood 2020)

Species	Criteria	5 – 11.9 inches diameter	12 – 20.9 inches diameter	21+ inches diameter
True fir or other	Crown scorch	85%	85%	85%
True fir or other	Bark char	50% any char	75% moderate or deep char	75% moderate or deep char
Douglas-fir	Crown scorch	90%	90%	90%
Douglas-fir	Bark char	100% any char	100% any char	100% any char
Hemlock	Crown scorch	30%	30%	30%
Hemlock	Bark char	90% any char	90% any char	90% any char
Lodgepole pine	Crown scorch	90%	90%	90%
Lodgepole pine	Bark char	100% any char	100% any char	100% any char
Cedar	Crown scorch	60%	75%	90%
Cedar	Bark char	75% any char	75% any char	75% any char

Striking Distance

The concept of striking distance involves consideration of tree height, tree lean, and ground slope as well as whether the tree is uphill or downhill from the infrastructure. I have considered the science and agency experience described in the field guides listed above and have chosen the following distances. In most areas, trees would be considered within striking distance if they are within 1.5 times the total tree height of the infrastructure (Filip 2016). This may seem counter intuitive, but experience has shown that when trees fail, they can come down with substantial force and when tops break out, they often slide or roll a considerable distance. When large trees fall, they can also knock down other trees in their path or cause boulders to roll. Where trees are uphill from infrastructure and on steep slopes (greater than 30%) where rolling and sliding risks are greater, the 1.5 times the total tree height distance may be expanded to 2 times the total tree height depending on site-specific circumstances.

Decision

I have decided to include all the develop recreation sites and administrative sites listed above in the Proposed Action section, as well as the suite of project design criteria developed by my interdisciplinary team to minimize impacts to important resources.

Rationale

Recreation opportunities provided by the Forest are vitally important to local economies and the recreating public. Removing hazard trees within developed recreation sites is an important first step in restoring recreation and the local economies that rely on public use.

Providing safe work areas at administrative sites is critical to the agencies' mission.

The Forest's budget has already been stretched to plan for and replace or repair burned structures. It is appropriate to protect that investment by removing unstable trees within striking distance of this infrastructure.

Extraordinary Circumstances

The mere presence of one or more of the resource conditions considered for extraordinary circumstances does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. It is the existence of a cause-effect relationship between a proposed action and the potential effect on these resource conditions and if such a relationship exists, the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determine whether extraordinary circumstances exist (36 CFR 220.6(b)).

The following resource conditions were considered, and the determinations were made based on a review of the proposed action, including the project design criteria.

Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species

- Fish

Threatened fish species and aquatic sensitive species occur within the project area. There is no planned in-water work for this project. Project design criteria have been developed and will be consistent with Forest Plan standards and guidelines and with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) biological opinion for Routine Actions and Maintenance Activities (RAMBO) signed March 26, 2018. For sensitive aquatic species, effects can be minimized by following established project design criteria. These actions would eliminate the extraordinary circumstance for aquatic sensitive species. The project may have minor effects to sensitive aquatic species that could impact individuals but would not lead toward federal listing of these species.

- Wildlife

There are known northern spotted owl activity centers and northern spotted owl critical habitat within the burned area. Although the fires had a direct impact on this species and its critical habitat, the proposed actions will not exacerbate the fire caused impact. Most actions may affect but are not likely adversely affect northern spotted owls and their critical habitat because the fires burned so intensively that many stands no longer provide essential habitat elements. However, some areas that were intensively burned but are within 500 feet of viable green habitats are considered post-fire foraging habitat. Removal of the dead trees within striking distance within this post-fire foraging habitat may affect and is likely to adversely affect northern spotted owls (LAA). When reviewing the impacts to owls at both the local and broader spatial contexts, this project does not rise to the level of extraordinary circumstance due to project locations and design criteria that provide the following protections for spotted owls.

- It is presumed that owls exist at 3 viable historic activity centers. These are not near developed recreation areas or administrative sites.

- The primary factor that drives the LAA determination is the removal of danger trees in post-fire foraging habitat. Although this habitat is now abundant, it is temporary and would eventually be lost as trees fall. Most of this habitat affected by danger tree removal is either not in owl home ranges or is in home ranges that were burned so extensively that they are no longer considered viable for owls. Danger tree removal at developed recreation areas and administrative sites would impact a very small amount of this habitat type.
- Some of the project consists of removing trees in areas that are no longer considered owl habitat.
- Developed recreation areas and administrative sites are not typically considered prime owl habitat due to the noise of human presence such as vehicles or barking dogs both day and night.

For these reasons, the effects to northern spotted owls were found to be minimal.

There are known sites for Regional Forester's Sensitive Wildlife Species within the project area. These effects can be minimized by following established project design criteria, avoiding, or minimizing the disturbance to these populations. These actions would eliminate the extraordinary circumstance for wildlife sensitive species. Additionally, in some cases, while the species is present in the project area, species-specific habitat is not present within the vicinity of the proposed action. Effects to these species could impact individuals but would not lead toward federal listing of these species.

- **Botany**

There are known sites for Regional Forester's Sensitive Species within the project area. Effects to these species could impact individuals but would not lead toward federal listing of these species. These effects can be mitigated by avoidance of known sites from mechanical activity. The proposed action will avoid or minimize disturbance to these populations which would eliminate the extraordinary circumstance for botanical resources. There are no Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, and no species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat.

The project will not have extraordinary circumstances associated with Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.

Floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds

- ***Floodplains***

There are no jurisdictional floodplains as per Executive Order 11988. Floodplains are limited and localized and would be within the Riparian Reserve network defined by the Northwest Forest Plan, and as described by the Forest Plan as Riparian Areas. Activities proposed within Riparian Reserves would be limited in extent as defined by project design criteria. The proposed action would be consistent with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

- ***Wetlands***

Inventoried or jurisdictional wetlands have been mapped within or immediately adjacent to treatment areas. There are no activities proposed that would jeopardize these features as per Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. No dredging or filling of these wetland features would occur

as part of the proposed action. Similarly, proposed actions would not alter or threaten non-jurisdictional wetland features.

All wetland features would be considered part of the Riparian Reserve network defined by the Northwest Forest Plan, and as described by the Forest Plan as Riparian Areas. Standards and guidelines pertaining to their management would be applied as a means for their protection and conservation. Specific best management practices and project design criteria have been developed to avoid and minimize disturbance to them from proposed activities.

- ***Municipal Watersheds***

There are several municipal watersheds in and downstream of the project area including the Breitenbush Hot Springs, Canby Utility, Clackamas River Water-Clackamas, City of Estacada, and City of Molalla. In addition, on the Clackamas River, municipal water supplies, including City of Lake Oswego, North Clackamas County Water Commission, and South Fork Water Board, have intakes downstream of the project area.

The project was designed to minimize sediment delivery and stream temperature impacts to protect water quality for municipal supply. Therefore, there would not be measurable impacts to municipal watersheds by removing danger trees from developed recreation areas and administrative sites.

The project will not have extraordinary circumstances associated with floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.

Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas

- ***Wilderness***

Several wilderness areas were burned intensively. Danger tree abatement at developed recreation areas and administrative sites would not impact wilderness areas.

- ***Wild and Scenic Rivers***

There are five Wild and Scenic Rivers in the vicinity of the fires.

- The Clackamas River has scenic and recreational segments and it has a completed comprehensive river management plan. Portions of the river corridor burned very intensively. The outstandingly remarkable values are Botany/Ecology, Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Cultural Resources. The danger trees along Highway 224 are not part of this project because they are included in an Oregon Department of Transportation operation.
- Roaring River has a wild designation except where it crosses Highway 224 where it is recreational. It has a completed comprehensive river management plan. The fire burned with relatively low intensity in the river corridor with the greatest intensity near the river's junction with the Clackamas River. The outstandingly remarkable values are Water Quality, Botany, Fisheries, Wildlife Habitat, Recreation, and Scenic Resources. The danger trees along Highway 224 are not part of this project because they are included in an Oregon Department of Transportation operation. No other roads cross into the river corridor and no additional danger trees would be removed.
- The South Fork Clackamas River has a wild designation. The entire river corridor intensively burned. The comprehensive river management plan is under development. The only road that

crosses through the wild river corridor is road 45. The outstandingly remarkable values are Scenery and Historic.

- Fish Creek has a recreational designation and its comprehensive river management plan is under development. The river corridor burned very intensively. The outstandingly remarkable value is Fisheries. Road 54 parallels Fish Creek closely.
- The Collawash River comprehensive river management plan is under development. It has a recreational designation at its confluence with the Clackamas River where the Riverside Fire burned, and a scenic designation at the headwaters where the Lionshead Fire burned. The outstandingly remarkable values are Recreation, Geology, Fisheries, and Botany. Only a small area burned where roadside danger trees overlap the river corridor.

No danger trees would be felled into these waterways because these waterways are considered relatively low priority for fisheries enhancement projects at this time. If instream fisheries projects are considered in the future, a Section 7 analysis under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act would first be completed. The outstandingly remarkable values have been assessed by the appropriate resource specialists and the impacts were found to be minimal. The project is also consistent with the existing comprehensive river management plans, as well as the plans that are currently under development.

There are no wilderness study areas or national recreation areas affected by the project. The project will not have extraordinary circumstances associated with congressionally designated areas.

Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas

- ***Inventoried roadless areas***

There is an inventoried roadless area in the Olallie Lake Scenic Area and within the Lionshead Fire perimeter. However, the boundaries of this area are outside the developed recreation hazard tree zone. Therefore, the project would not reduce the size of the roadless area or affect roadless values.

- ***Potential Wilderness Areas***

There are no areas affected by the fires that qualify as Forest Service potential wilderness areas according to Forest Service Handbook 1909.12_70.

The project will not have extraordinary circumstances associated with inventoried roadless areas or Forest Service potential wilderness areas.

Research natural areas

There are no Research Natural Areas within the fire perimeters.

American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites/Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas

The project will follow the phased approach to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act detailed in the 2021 Programmatic Agreement between United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Fremont-Winema, Mt. Hood, Rouge River-Siskiyou, Umpqua, and Willamette National Forests, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding Fire Salvage, Recovery and Restoration in Oregon. In this phased approach, a final NEPA decision on undertakings may be approved prior to completion of the identification and

evaluation of properties in the entire area of potential effects provided that all stipulations within the programmatic agreement are followed.

The Forest Service acknowledges its continued responsibility to engage in meaningful consultation with Federally recognized Tribes with interest in these lands. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon have all been provided the opportunity to participate in the development of the programmatic agreement and the protection measures it outlines for historic properties. Consultation will continue with each Tribe throughout the lifetime of this project.

The project area contains some previously documented historic properties. Effects to these and undiscovered sites can be mitigated by avoidance of known sites from mechanical activity. Where avoidance is not possible, other design criteria were developed to protect these resources. Avoiding or minimizing the disturbance to historic properties eliminates the extraordinary circumstance for heritage resources.

Consistency with Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policy

Land and Resource Management Plan

The Mt. Hood National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan), as amended, provides standards and guidelines.

The Forest Plan, as amended, has a goal to manage Forest recreational access to protect natural resources, provide for public safety, and minimize conflicts among various users of the Forest. (Goal #16, Page Four-3).

Due to the fires, the existing condition is not in alignment with the desired conditions expressed by many Forest Plan standards and guidelines. However, the project has been carefully designed and would not measurably further degrade resource conditions. A Forest Plan consistency checklist is located in the analysis file, and discussions of specific standards and guidelines are addressed in each specialist report where needed for additional clarity. These analyses found that the project is consistent with Forest Plan Goals and with applicable standards and guidelines.

Other Relevant Law, Regulation, or Policy

- *Clean Air Act*: My decision is consistent with the Clean Air Act. Burning would be scheduled in conjunction with the State of Oregon to comply with the Oregon Smoke Implementation Plan to minimize the adverse effects on air quality.
- *National Forest Management Act*: The proposed actions were developed to be in full compliance with NFMA via compliance with the Forest Plan, as amended.
- The project complies with Executive Order 12898 regarding environmental justice. No disproportionately high adverse human or environmental effects on minorities and/or low-income populations were identified during the analysis or public involvement process.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

These categories of actions do not require a formal public comment period. However, a 15-day scoping period began on February 26, 2021. The project was posted on the Forest's website and a notice was sent to a local mailing list and to interested individuals via GovDelivery (an electronic messaging program). Notices were sent to Tribal contacts. A presentation was made to the Clackamas Stewardship

Partners; a local collaborative group. Comments received are in the administrative record as well as a document summarizing them and how the agency considered them.

This project is not 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 [USDA website](#)¹.

Activities included in this decision may begin immediately. For additional information, please contact James Roden at james.roden@usda.gov or 541-604-1230.

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