



**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** January 9, 2015

Dear Interested Citizen,

The Mt. Hood National Forest has completed an Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact for the Lava Restoration Project. The Responsible Official is Janeen Tervo, District Ranger, Hood River Ranger District.

The District Ranger's draft decision is to implement the Modified Proposed Action, including the project design criteria/mitigation measures. The Modified Proposed Action removes Unit 52, a huckleberry enhancement thinning unit near the Vista Ridge trailhead. The overarching purpose of the project is to improve the forest conditions within the Middle, East and West Fork Hood River Watersheds. The Modified Proposed Action includes The Modified Proposed Action includes planting, sapling thinning, plantation thinning, firewood removal, and huckleberry enhancement. The Lava Restoration project is located at T1S R8-9E; T2S, R8E; Willamette Meridian in Hood River County. The Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact can be downloaded from the Forest website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mthood/projects>.

Section 428 of The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 included a provision establishing a pre-decisional objection process (36 CFR 218) for projects and activities implementing land management plans in lieu of the post-decisional appeal process (36 CFR 215) used by the agency since 1993. Since this project is a non-fuels reduction act (HFRA) project, it is subject to the Project-Level Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process (Objection process) as identified in 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

Only individuals or entities (non-governmental organizations, businesses, partnerships, state and local governments, Alaska Native Corporations, and Indian Tribes) 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.

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 are 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 will 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:

**Email:** 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.

**Postal delivery:** Forest Supervisor, Objection Reviewing Officer; Mt. Hood National Forest; U.S. Forest Service; 16400 Champion Way, Sandy, OR 97055. 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 objection filing period.

**Hand deliveries:** 16400 Champion Way, Sandy, Oregon 97055. The office hours are 8:30-4:30 M-F, excluding legal holidays.

**Fax:** Forest Supervisor, Attn: Objections to 503-668-1794.

For further information regarding objection procedures, contact Casey Gatz at 541-352-1255.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Janeen Tervo*

JANEEN TERVO  
District Ranger  
Hood River Ranger District  
Mt. Hood National Forest