



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Idaho Panhandle
National Forests

Bonnors Ferry
Ranger District
6286 Main Street
Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-5561
FAX (208) 267-3732

File Code: 1950

Date: January 15, 2008

Dear Interested Public:

Enclosed is a copy of the completed Templeman Healthy Forests Restoration (HFRA) Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No-Significant Impact (FONSI). I have included you in this mailing because you have an interest in, or previously requested to be included on the project mailing list, or have submitted specific written comments related to the project.

The Templeman HFRA project proposes fuels reduction treatments on National Forest System lands in the Meadow Creek and Kootenai River watersheds located near Templeman Lake, approximately 8 miles north of Bonnors Ferry within Sections 12, 13 and 24, Township 63 North, Range 1 East, of the Boise Meridian, on the Bonnors Ferry Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Boundary County, Idaho. The objectives of the project are to 1) reduce hazardous fuels within the Boundary County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)-defined wildland urban interface (WUI) area and; 2) trend towards or maintain vegetative conditions that would be resilient to fire in the Meadow Creek and Kootenai River watershed.

Alternative 2, the proposed action and preferred alternative, would remove approximately 40 to 60 tons per acre of forest fuels by using a combination of mechanical treatments, hand treatments and prescribed fire, changing the fire behavior characterization from a Fuel Model 10 (timber with heavy surface fuels) to a Fuel Model 8 (timber with light timber litter), across a 1,200-acre treatment area, utilizing forest products including biomass to the fullest extent possible. The proposed action would also accomplish routine road reconstruction such as brushing, blading, ditch reestablishment, ditch relief pipe replacements, hazard tree removal along haul routes, etc. on approximately 10 miles of existing roads and construct about one-half mile of temporary roads that would be decommissioned following use to maintain pre-treatment access levels.

I am the Responsible Official who will issue a decision on this project. Additional information, if needed, regarding this proposed project can be obtained from: Barry Wynsma, Project Leader or Pat Behrens, Ecosystems Planning Staff Officer, Bonnors Ferry Ranger District, (208) 267-5561.

Opportunity to Object to a Proposed Authorized Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project

This proposed project is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218 Subpart A and is not subject to notice, comment and appeal procedures under 36 CFR Part 215 (218.3).



Eligibility to File Objections

Objections will be accepted only from those who submitted written comments specific to this proposed project during the comment period (36 CFR 218.6). The publication date of the legal notice in the Coeur d'Alene Press, the newspaper of record, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection (36 CFR 218.9(a)). Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. An objection, including any attachments, must be filed (regular mail, fax, Email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service) as stated above within 30 days of the date of publication of the legal notice for the objection process (36 CFR 218.9(a)). Incorporation of documents by reference shall not be allowed in the objection (36 CFR 218.7(c)).

Filing an Objection

Objections must be filed with the Reviewing Officer in writing. The Reviewing Officer is the next higher level supervisor of the Responsible Official. Objections must be submitted by mail at: USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807; by FAX at: (406) 329-3411; or by Email at: appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us. The acceptable formats for submitting an electronic objection are: MS Word, Word Perfect, or RTF. Please type "Templeman HFRA EA" in the Email subject line. Hand-delivered objections will be accepted at the Regional Forester's Office, 200 E. Broadway, Missoula, MT, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. All objections shall be open to public inspection during the objection process (36 CFR 218.7(a)).

At a minimum an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.7(d)): 1) The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available; 2) a signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for Email may be filed with the objection); 3) when multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request); 4) the name of the proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project will be implemented; and 5) provide sufficient narrative description of those aspects of the project that are objected to (36 CFR 218.7(b)) by identifying specific issues and suggested remedies which would resolve the objection.

If an objection is received on this project the Reviewing Officer and objector may meet and/or converse by telephone to discuss issues raised in the objection and potential resolution. The Reviewing Officer has the discretion to determine whether or not adequate time remains in the review period to make a meeting with the objector practical. These meetings would take place soon after the closing date for filing an objection. All meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending any resolution discussions, please contact the Responsible Official or monitor the following website for postings about current objections in the Northern Region of the Forest Service: http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/projects/appeal_index.shtml.

It is the responsibility of Objectors to ensure their objection is received in a timely manner (218.9). The publication date in the *Coeur d'Alene Press*, newspaper of record, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object to this proposed project should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Time extensions of the objection time period are not permitted (218.9).

Timing of Project Decision and Implementation

When the objection-filing period has ended and responses have been made to all objections by the Reviewing Officer, the Responsible Official may make a final decision on the proposed project. The Reviewing Officer shall issue a written response to the Objectors within 30 days following the end of this objection-filing period (218.9). When no timely objections are filed, a decision can be made on the 5th business day following the close of the filing period (218.11).

Implementation may begin immediately after the decision is made.

Sincerely,



LIANOTTA K. McNAIR

Forest Supervisor

Idaho Panhandle National Forests

enclosures(EA and Draft FONSI)