



File Code: 1950-1/5150-1

Date: January 15, 2009

Greetings:

The Hughes Creek Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed and made available to persons/groups on the project mailing list that indicated interest or that submitted specific written comments related to the project. The Hughes Creek Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project proposes to treat hazardous fuels by commercial and precommercial thinning and prescribed burning in the Hughes Creek drainage located about 6 miles north of North Fork, Idaho on the North Fork Ranger District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The proposal is to thin from below, leaving the larger trees, on about 3,500 acres and prescribe burn by underburning about 13,000 acres. Existing roads will be used for access to treatment areas with no new roads constructed. Slash created from thinning will be piled in most cases to allow biomass utilization of material. Noxious weed treatment and spread prevention practices will be associated activities. The treatments will occur over a ten to fifteen year period starting in 2009.

William A. Wood, Forest Supervisor, is the Responsible Official who will issue a decision on this project. Additional information regarding this proposed project can be obtained from: Ken Rodgers, Team Leader, (208) 879-4154. The EA can be accessed on the Salmon-Challis NF webpage: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/projects/> Paper copies and CD versions of the EA are available at the North Fork Ranger District and Forest Supervisor's offices. 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 215 (218.3).

Eligibility to File Objections

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted written comments specific to the proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project either during scoping or other public involvement opportunities on an EA (218.6). Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual, objections received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only. If an objection is submitted on behalf of a number of individuals or organizations, each individual or organization listed must meet the eligibility requirement of having previously submitted comments on the project (218.6)

Filing an Objection

The objection must contain at a minimum, a sufficient narrative description of those aspects of the proposed project objected to, specific issues related to the project, and suggested remedies which would resolve the objection. Incorporation of documents by reference shall not be allowed.



Individuals and organizations filing an objection must also provide the following information: (218.7)

1. Objector's name and address; with telephone number if available.
2. Signature or other verification of identity upon request. (A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic objections.)
3. For objections with multiple names or multiple organizations, identification of the lead Objector is required. Verification of the identity of the lead Objector shall be provided on request.
4. The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name of the National Forest and Ranger District on which the proposed project will be implemented.

Written objections, including any attachments, must be filed (regular mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, or express delivery) with the Reviewing Officer, Harv Forsgren, 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT, 84401 within 30 days following the publication date of this legal notice in the newspaper of record; fax: 801-625-5277; email: appeals-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us. E-mail objections must be submitted in MS word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf); Objections may also be delivered to the above address, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, excluding federal holidays. It is the responsibility of Objectors to ensure their objection is received in a timely manner (218.9). The publication date in the *Recorder Herald*, 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,

/S/ WILLIAM A. WOOD

WILLIAM A. WOOD
Forest Supervisor