



File Code: 1950

Date: July 7, 2008

Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor Rebecca Lockett Heath is releasing the Finley HFRA Thin Project Environmental Assessment for a 30 day objection period. The project is located within the Finley Canyon area of the Methow Valley Ranger District, and is designed to provide reduce risk to homes and structures in the area, reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire on forest ecosystem components, improve sustainability of stands to withstand frequent fire, and increase firefighter safety. The project will reduce fuels on 133 acres through commercial and pre-commercial thinning, and application of prescribed fire through handpiling or excavator piling and burning piles, or underburning. Commercial and non-commercial thinning and prescribed fire will occur within some riparian habitat conservation areas. The project will amend Deer Winter Range standards in the Okanogan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan for this project only by allowing limited winter operations.

This Environmental Assessment is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subpart A. This project is not subject to the notice, comment, and appeal procedures found at 36 CFR 215. Objection to this Environmental Assessment must be in writing and must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 218.7. The objector must provide sufficient narrative description of those aspects of this proposed project addressed by the objection, specific issues and suggested remedies to resolve the objection. Documents cannot be incorporated by reference. At a minimum the objection must include the objector's name and address, with telephone number if available, a signature or other verification of authorship, identification of a lead objector if multiple names are listed on the objection, and the name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the responsible official, Forest and Ranger District on which the project will be implemented.

The objection must be postmarked, hand delivered, or faxed within 30 days of the legal notice published in the Wenatchee World Newspaper on July 8, 2008, to the reviewing officer: Cal Joyner, Acting Regional Forester, Attention: Objections, P. O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208 (or physical address: 333 SW First Avenue, Portland, OR 97204), fax (503) 808-2255, or sent electronically to appeals-pacificnorthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us within 30 days of the date the legal notice. Hand deliveries must be made between 7:45AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted only to the e-mail address shown above as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format or Adobe portable document format only. E-mails in other formats or containing viruses will be rejected. Note in the subject line the name of the project and that it is an objection. Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted written comments on this project. The publication date of this legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection and those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

For further information or a copy of the EA, contact Arlo Vander Woude at the Methow Valley Ranger District, 24 West Chewuch Rd., Winthrop, WA 98862 (509) 996-4049.

/s/ John E. Newcom
JOHN E. NEWCOM
District Ranger

