



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Hood
National Forest

16400 Champion Way
Sandy, OR 97055-7248
503-668-1700
FAX # 503-668-1641

File Code: 1950

Date: 5 April 2007

Dear Interested Party:

The Barlow Ranger District on the Mt. Hood National Forest has identified you as an individual, agency, or organization that has shown interest in the planning process for The Dalles Watershed Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project is now complete. It is available on the Mt. Hood National Forest website, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/projects/>. If you do not have access to the internet, please notify team leader Steve Jones @ 541-352-6002 if you would like us to send you a compact disc or a hard copy of the EA.

The District Interdisciplinary Team has analyzed the proposed fuelbreak under the authorities of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). The HFRA was passed by Congress to provide new tools to Federal agencies so that they can protect communities and their watersheds from wildfire. If you would like to view the text of the HFRA, you can visit the following link:
<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/hfra/references/hfra.pdf>.

The Responsible Official has determined that the Dalles Watershed Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project fits the following HFRA criteria: 1) it is within a municipal watershed and 2) the treatments are proposed within Fire Regime Condition Classes 2 and 3. There are some special requirements and exemptions in an EA prepared under the HFRA that are different from traditional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures. These include limitations to the number of alternatives that are analyzed, and a predecisional administrative review (objection) process prior to the decision.

Predecisional Review (Objection) Process: Participation in the predecisional review (objection) process is limited to individuals and organizations who have submitted specific written comments related to the proposed authorized hazardous-fuel-reduction project during the opportunity for public comment provided when the EA was being prepared for this project (Section 105(a)(3), 36 CFR 218.6).

How to file an objection: Objections (including attachments), may be mailed, hand delivered, faxed, emailed, express delivered, or delivered by messenger to the Reviewing Officer at the address below. They must be received within *thirty days* following publication of the legal notice in *The Oregonian*. ***Please be advised that it is the responsibility of objectors to ensure that their objection is received in a timely manner.***

Objections to this project must be filed with the Reviewing Officer at the following address:

REVIEWING OFFICER
Linda Goodman, Regional Forester,
USDA Forest Service, Region Six
ATTN: 1570 Appeals/Objections
P.O. Box 3623
333 SW First Avenue
Portland, OR 97208-3623
Fax: 1-503-808-2255



Objections must comply with the requirements in 36 CFR 218.6 and 36 CFR 218.7.

Hand delivered objections must be presented to the above address between 7:45AM and 4:30PM Monday through Friday except legal holidays. Objections can be filed electronically at: appeals-pacificnorthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Electronic objections must be submitted as part of the 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 email addresses other than the one listed above, or in formats other than those listed or containing viruses, will be rejected. ***It is the responsibility of the appellant to confirm receipt of objections submitted by electronic mail.***

Timeline: A Decision Notice will be issued on this authorized hazardous-fuel-reduction project after the reviewing officer has responded to all pending objections and a Biological Opinion has been received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thank you for your continuing interest and participation in this process. For further information, please contact Steve Jones at 541-352-6002.

Sincerely,

ISI GARY L. LARSEN _____
GARY L. LARSEN
Forest Supervisor

