



File Code: 1950

Date: April 10, 2017

Dear Interested Parties,

The Scott Mt. Prescribed Fire in Wilderness Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision Notice have been completed. The proposed decision is to select Alternative 2 which proposes implementing management ignited prescribed fire within the southwestern portion of the Mt. Washington Wilderness on the Willamette National Forest (NF) and an adjacent non wilderness parcel of 772 acres. The project will:

- Treat up to 1,725 acres of the Scott Mt. project area with prescribed fire using one or more helicopters for aerial ignition.
- Use aerial ignition techniques such as Plastic Sphere Dispensers (PSD) or aerial drip torch.
- Create a mosaic of burned and unburned patches across the project area through multiple ignition sites.
- Implement the prescribed fire in the fall under conditions that favor low fire spread rates and low flame lengths that burn mostly litter, duff and understory vegetation with some single and group trees torching.
- Likely implement the burning over several years.
- Not use handlines, dozer lines, pumps, chain saws, aerial retardant, or other active suppression techniques other than helicopter water drops

The project area is located east of Highway 126, north and west of Highway 242, about 11 miles northeast of the community of McKenzie Bridge, Oregon in the McKenzie River watershed in T15S R07E; T15S R07 1/2E; and T16S, R07E.

This project is subject to pre-decisional administrative review pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subpart B. The 45-day objection period begins the day following publication of notice of objection in the Eugene Register Guard, the newspaper of record. Only individuals or organizations who submitted specific written or oral comments (36 CFR 218.2) during the designated opportunity for public participation (scoping or 30-day comment period) may object (36 CFR 218.5). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project 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 the requirement for objection issues 36 CFR 218.8 (c).

Minimum requirements of an objection are described in 36 CFR 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 would 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 and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment. Objections can be submitted in several forms, but must be received by the Regional Forester, the Objection Deciding Officer, within 45 days from the date of publication of notice of objection in the Eugene Register Guard. The publication date in the Eugene Register Guard is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Attachments received after the 45 day objection period will not be considered. Those wishing to object to this Draft Decision Notice should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Objections may be submitted in the following ways: 1) **Electronic Submission:**

Electronic objections will be accepted through the Forest Service online comment system available at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=43527> 2)

Delivered to: Pacific Northwest Regional Office at 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon between 8:00am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday except legal holidays; or 3) **Mailed to:** Regional Forester, Reviewing Officer, c/o Regional Administrative Review Coordinator, Pacific Northwest Region, Attention: Objections, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

The Notice of Objection was published in the Eugene Register Guard on April 10, 2017, starting the 45 day objection period. The objection period ends on May 24, 2017.

The EA and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact may be viewed online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=43527>. For more information or to request copies of the documents contact Matt Peterson at (541) 225-6421 or by email at mbpeterson@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for your interest in the Scott Mt. Prescribed Fire in Wilderness project. Your previous comments provided valuable input and information

Sincerely,



TRACY BECK
Forest Supervisor