

APPENDIX M

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON DSEIS

The following section contains responses to comments received on the DSEIS. A Notice of Availability for the DSEIS was published on November 25, 2017, initiating the formal comment period (ending January 9, 2017). On December 22, 2016, the comment period was extended until February 8, 2017. A total of 1,495 comment letters were received. Comments that were substantively similar, were summarized as single concern statements. Responses to the concerns are provided below.

Concern #1 - Comment letters included introductory narrative and other information that was reviewed and noted with no further response required.

Topics varied and examples include:

- Concern about USDA Forest Service staffing and funding
- Opportunities for educating hikers, stockmen and others
- Concern about effects of cattle or livestock in forested areas; including Wilderness
- Concern about provisions for commercial outfitting in the Wilderness Act
- Concern about mining and drilling
- Concern about evidence of human presence in Wilderness
- Concern about recreation or other impacts to areas outside the project area
- Contribution of volunteers and permit holders for maintenance and other forest or Wilderness management
- Discussion of existing condition
- Listings of some of the wildlife species in Wilderness areas
- Concern about consideration of Wilderness values versus commercial or economic considerations
- Concern about ability to use livestock to accomplish maintenance
- Concern about use of chainsaws in Wilderness
- Concern about changes to party size limits for groups not part of outfitting/guiding
- Concern about the cost of the analysis for this project
- Concern about ability to access Wilderness without the use of horses
- Concern about user built trails
- Comments responding to other's comment letters
- Consideration of a wilderness access permit system for all types of use.
- Concerns about the effects of the project in relation to climate change.

Response 1: No further response will be provided for those comments that were:

- **Unrelated to the decision being made,**
- **Already decided by law, regulation or policy,**
- **Beyond the scope of the proposal,**
- **Conjectural in nature or not supported by scientific evidence, or**
- **General in nature or position statements.**

Concern #2 - Concern was expressed in support and in opposition of amending this Forest Plan Standard and Guideline concerning the use of campsites within 200 feet of meadows, lakes, and streams. There was also a concern that this amendment would not be consistent with leave-no-trace camping techniques.

Response 2: The environmental effects of amending this standard and guideline is discussed in the effects analysis in Chapter 3 of the FEIS 3-17, 3-18, 3-19, 3-66, 3-67, 3-69, 3-73, 3-74, 3-77, 3-78, 3-88, 3-166, 3-

181, 3-213, 3-223, 3-227, 3-254, 3-259, 3-262, 3-264, 3-265, 3-268, 3-269, 3-273 - 3-318, 3-333, 3-336 , and supplemented in the DSEIS/FSEIS.

Refer to FEIS page 1-18 for the purpose and need for a forest plan amendment to allow existing campsites to be used, and to the descriptions of Alternative 2 (FEIS page 2-9) Alternative 3 (FEIS page 2-12), and Alternative 4 (FEIS page 2-15). Outfitter - guides are not permitted to establish new camps.

Mitigation measures listed on FEIS pages 2-19 through 2-25 are designed to reduce impacts from pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides, including following leave-no-trace techniques (mitigation 5). Leave no trace is also discussed in FEIS 3-68.

Concern #3 - Concern was expressed in support and in opposition of amending the Forest Plan to change the standard for the amount of barren core outfitters can use in campsites. This included requests that previously impacted areas be allowed to recover and for clarity about the monitoring proposed.

Response 3: Barren core is described/discussed in FEIS Chapter 1 on page 1-27 (Significant Issue 5), Chapter 3 in the FEIS on pages C: 19,30,32,33,44-47, 49, 50, 51, 53, 60-61, 63-64, 66-67, 69-70, 80, 82, 90, 96, 100, 102, 152, 154-164, 167, 178, 179, 202-203, 212-213, 218, 220, 224, 242, 251, 254, 257, 259, 262-267, 269-270, 282, 333, 335, 373-374, 380.

Monitoring - See pages FEIS 2-26 - 2-27 and FSEIS page Appendix 42 for information on outfitter-guide monitoring.

In order to let campsites 'recover' the sites would have to be closed to the public which is beyond the scope of the analysis. For discussion on public use of campsites see FEIS Chapter 3 pages 3-63, 3-71, 3-75. Additionally, see Alternatives Considered but eliminated on FEIS page 2-7 - 2-8 (#25) for information on moving campsites and to avoid exceeding barren core ground standards.

Concern #4 - Commenters suggested that the total number of service days for the outfitters be 1,500 or less. This may be pertaining to the number of service days in wilderness or total number of service days available for all parts of the permit area, inside and outside wilderness.

Response 4: FSEIS Appendix B (2016 Needs Assessment) describes the "purpose of this needs assessment is to clearly describe an informed analysis on the type, amount, location, and timing of commercial outfitter and guiding services necessary in the Pasayten Wilderness and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness" (page FSEIS Appendix 2). The calculations for determining the service days in wilderness known as the extent necessary can be found on page FSEIS pages Appendix 36-39.

The total number of service days for each alternative can be found in the FSEIS on pages Summary 7, 9, 12, and 15. In the FSEIS the only service day change was a reduction of service days in Alternative 4 due to a decrease in service days in wilderness as a result of the extent necessary calculations in the 2016 Needs Assessment (FSEIS page 18).

Concern #5 - Commenters expressed support and lack of support for FEIS Alternative 4, including setting the total number of service days to equal the highest amount of actual use over the past 10 years, plus 25%.

Response 5: The support and lack of support for Alternative 4 is noted. See FSEIS pages 12 and 13 for information regarding total number of service days. The FSEIS under Alternative 4, Objectives, on Pages 12-13 states "Establish the number of authorized service days that matches the highest amount used by the outfitters during 19991 to 2009, plus 25%, except within wilderness , where the number of service days would match the extent necessary determination from the 2016 Needs Assessment" and Increase available service days outside of wilderness, as necessary to provide the high 10 plus 25% service days