

December 11, 2019

TO: PNW Regional Forester, Objections Reviewing Officer

VIA: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=28132>

Subject: 36 CFR 218 Objection Pacific Connector Pipeline **Site Specific Plan Amendments** for the Umpqua, Rogue River-Siskiyou, and Fremont-Winema National Forests

Dear Forest Service:

In accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 218, I, John Riha, hereby object to the project described below.

DOCUMENT TITLE: Opportunity to Object, Plan Amendments for Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline on The Umpqua, Rogue River-Siskiyou, and Fremont-Winema National Forests.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Forest Service proposes to approve 30.6 miles of the Pacific Connector Pipeline route across the National Forest System. This proposal includes approximately 591 acres of forests for the construction of the Pipeline Project and an additional 186 acres of permanent right of way. This decision would allow crossing of 10.8 miles on the Umpqua Nation Forest in Douglas County, 13.7 miles on the Rouge River Siskiyou National Forest in Jackson County, and 6 miles on the Fremont-Winema National Forest in Klamath County.

PROJECT LOCATION (Forest/District): Umpqua, Rogue River-Siskiyou, and Fremont-Winema National Forests, Douglas, Jackson, and Klamath Counties, Oregon.

NAME AND TITLE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Alice B. Carlton, Forest Supervisor and Responsible Official, Umpqua National Forest.

OBJECTOR: John Riha, [REDACTED]

TIMELINESS: This objection is timely filed. Notice of the Opportunity to Objection To “Site Specific” Plan Amendments for Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline proposed decision was published in the Federal Register on November 22, 2019). Forty-five days from November 22, 2019 is January 5, 2020.

REQUEST FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS RESOLUTION: I, John Riha, hereby request a meeting to discuss potential resolution of the issues raised in this objection.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THOSE ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED DECISION ADDRESSED BY THE OBJECTION:

The NEPA process is flawed. The Forest Service has; failed to disclose site-specific effects; and failed to take a hard look at various issues described herein.

SUGGESTED REMEDIES THAT WOULD RESOLVE THE OBJECTION:

I, John Riha, respectfully request that the Forest Service withdraw the recommended project and:

1. Prepare a project that meets the standards and guidelines of the existing land use management plan; or
2. Deny the project.

DESCRIBE HOW THE OBJECTION RELATES TO PRIOR COMMENTS:

The stop and start FERC planning process for routing the pipeline through public lands has been confusing, complex, misleading, and difficult to follow for ordinary citizens. What I know is that I value and use the forests and watersheds that the Forest Service manages on behalf of the public. Throughout the extensive FERC planning process, I, like many others, have attempted to voice my concerns over the impacts of pipeline construction on my public lands. Now to the best of my ability I am attempting to again convey my concern through an administrative objection to the Forest Service over its proposal to re-designate my public forest lands as a permanent give-away to a foreign energy company.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES RELATED TO THE PROPOSED SITE-SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENTS ACTION:

1. The Forest Service failed to consider an alternative that doesn't require exempting this applicant from their forest plans as written.
2. The cumulative effects of this proposal on watershed, wildlife, and fire management have not been analyzed for "the purpose and the effects" as required by law.
3. The pipeline construction fails to meet requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan aquatic conservation strategy and survey and manage programs, and should not be exempt from them.

Signed,

John Riha

John Riha

541-497-0707