

**January 19, 2020**

**TO:** PNW Regional Forester, Objections Reviewing Officer<sup>[SEP]</sup> **VIA:**  
<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=28132>

**Subject:** 36 CFR 219.54(c) Objection Pacific Connector Pipeline Forest Plan Amendments for the Umpqua, Rogue River Siskiyou, and Fremont-Winema National Forests

Dear Forest Service:<sup>[SEP]</sup> In accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 219 I, William Merris , hereby object to the project described below.

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

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed action will make provision for 30.6 miles of the Pacific Connector Pipeline route to cross National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the above-mentioned Forests. These areas affected by this decision include approximately 591 acres of lands associated with the proposed construction of the Pacific Connector Pipeline Project and approximately 186 acres associated with the proposed permanent right of way for the Pipeline Project, which would cross approximately 10.8 miles on the Umpqua National Forest in Douglas County, 13.7 miles on the

Rogue 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.

**LEAD OBJECTOR:** William Merris, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**TIMELINESS:** This objection is timely filed. Notice of the Opportunity to Object to Plan Amendments for Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline proposed decision was published in the federal register on November 22, 2019. Sixty days from November 22 is January 20, 2020.

**REQUEST FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS RESOLUTION :**

I, William Merris, hereby request a meeting to discuss potential resolution of the issues raised in this objection.

**STATEMENT OF ISSUES:**

The current Land Use Management Plan for the Forest Service requires that developments (such as pipelines) in older forests or “Late Successional Reserves” must be impact-neutral or beneficial “for the creation and maintenance of late-successional (old forest) habitat.” The proposed action to amend the existing forest plan to create a permanent clear cut along the pipeline route would destroy the quality of the healthy forest and harm existing old forests in currently protected LSR’s

-The change to current permit parameters would increase fire hazard<sup>[11]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> for threatened species, and endanger water quality for both wildlife and water systems for populations that rely on those resources. 17 miles of the proposed forest route for the pipeline in 2016 went through the area burned by the Stouts Fire. Putting a compressed natural gas pipeline through fire-prone forests is extremely irresponsible.

LNG pipelines undermine recreational values on public lands and ultimately harm public lands in a way that is incompatible with the values of the current forest plan.

**SUGGESTED REMEDIES THAT WOULD RESOLVE THE OBJECTION:**

I respectfully request that the Forest Service withdraw the recommended project and **Deny the project**. Aside from the numerous dangers posed by the project to our forests and waterways. The project will become a lost asset in the next 10 years at best and leave Oregonians to foot the bill for clean up.

**DESCRIBE HOW THE OBJECTIONS RELATE TO PRIOR**

## COMMENTS:

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 forestlands as a permanent give-away to a foreign energy company.

Signed,

*William Merris*