



File Code: 1570 (218)
Date: May 21, 2020

Dear Objector,

This letter is in response to objections filed by Friends of the Clearwater and Harry Jageman, on the Stray Creek Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision Notice released by Brandon Knapton, Lochsa-Powell District Ranger on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. I have read your objections and reviewed the project record. My review of your objection was conducted in accordance with the administrative review procedures found at 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS

The regulations at 36 CFR 218.8 provide for a pre-decisional administrative review process in which the objector provides sufficient narrative description of the project, specific issues related to the project, and suggested remedies that would resolve the objections.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS

As specified at 36 CFR 218.11(b), I must provide a written response to your objections; however, this response need not be point by point. The review of your objection issues is included as an attachment to this letter and will be posted on the project website.

As a result of the objection review, I am instructing the responsible official to complete the following before signing the decision:

- Clarify which watershed acres were used in the watershed analysis to estimate water yield.
- Clarify the rationale for the findings in the wildlife report and biological evaluation, and include the BE findings in the Decision Notice.
- Expand the effects analysis area for goshawk to correspond with a breeding range.
- Expand the effects analysis area for pileated woodpecker to correspond with a home range.
- Add a paragraph to the EA that provides context and intensity for effects to fisher, in relationship to habitat available forest-wide.
- Determine if project modifications are necessary to reduce potential negative effects to fisher and to meet MIS habitat objectives. If project modifications are not necessary, include the rationale for reducing habitat for sensitive species in the Decision Notice.

CONCLUSION



My review finds that upon completion of the instructions above, the project will be in compliance with all applicable laws and the Clearwater National Forest Plan (1987). Ranger Knapton may then sign the Decision Notice for this project. My review constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture; no further review from any other Forest Service or Department of Agriculture official of my written response to your objection is available [36 CFR 218.11(b)(2)].

Sincerely,



CHERYL F. PROBERT

Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Brandon Knapton, Sara Daugherty, Zoanne Anderson, Olga Troxel, Kim Smolt