

From: [Nishek, Douglas W -FS](#)
To: [Dunlap, Karen E -FS](#); [Norton, Michelle - FS](#)
Cc: [Troxel, Olga -FS](#)
Subject: RE: Buckskin Saddle - project record
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:48:58 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Ms Caviness,

This email serves as the Coeur d'Alene THPO official response to the draft FONSI for the inaptly named Buckskin Saddle Integrated Restoration Project.

Despite the multiple communications, meetings and site visits staff from this office participated in with staff from your office, the Tribe's cultural resource concerns have not been taken in to consideration. Or perhaps they were "considered" and then ignored, set aside, or deemed unworthy of being addressed.

The request for NO new roads, no improved ("maintained") roads to provide access to the variously named harvest areas has been "addressed" by 173 miles of road maintenance, including a quarter mile of new construction. Further, "about 27 miles of new system roads" would be constructed. While the draft FONSI states that these roads would be "stored," it has been made clear by THPO staff that the "stored" roads on USFS lands are generally used by the public who skirt the blockades, gates and etc. If the roads were obliterated, that would be different. Stored roads also continue to effect the drainage, wildlife pathways, provide shooting corridors for human hunters, and predator galleries for wildlife.

Requests for changes in harvest areas were not addressed.

Concerns with increased recreation, increased access to culturally significant areas by the public through the road maintenance and construction, and the types of harvest methods that are the least acceptable, and the request to consider that the forest is more than a set of "exploitable resources" for income, and for recreation, have not been addressed.

In all, the Draft FONSI, while expected, is disappointing.

Please note that the 19 lines of the letter specifying how objections must be filed, that these objections, if not filed in the very specific manner specified, then they may legally be ignored,

or rather "set aside," per 36 CFR 218.10; dwarf the single line stating that "continued consultation and collaborative dialogue with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe is very important."

Please communicate at your earliest convenience, how the previously stated concerns and objections brought to the USFS by the CdA THPO staff have been taken into consideration in the draft FONSI. The increased roads, access to areas of cultural significance, and types of harvest that the staff of this office filed clear and well supported objections to, not only continue to be in the plan, but the areas devoted to some of the concerning activities has increased.

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

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