

Jessica Morley

11/9/2020

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To: Richard Periman, Forest Supervisor & Objection Reviewing Officer
Mt. Hood National Forest
16400 Champion Way
Sandy, OR 97055

Submitted via email to: objections-pnw-mthood@fs.fed.us

Re: In accordance with 36 CFR §218, I object to the Environmental Assessment (“EA”) and draft Decision for the Zigzag Integrated Resource Project.

Location: Sandy River Watershed and Salmon River Watershed, Zigzag Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest

Objector’s Interests: I am a resident of Portland, OR and access the Mt. Hood Zigzag district for recreation, physical and spiritual nourishment as well as botanical and herbal studies. I submitted previous comments for this project.

Requested Relief: Complete and disclose a full analysis of impacts, as is required by NEPA, related to climate change

I submit this Objection for the following reasons:

The Zigzag Integrated Resource Project Decision Notice fails to adequately address the concerns raised in public comments about the project’s potential impact on climate change concerns. Failing to take a “hard look” at the way that this project may exacerbate the present and future realities of climate change violates the same laws and policies as were deemed illegal in the Crystal Clear Timber Sale proposal with regard to NEPA.

As I expressed in my previous comments, I have concerns about the impact that logging, particularly of mature forest, will have on furthering the impacts of climate change -- specifically in terms of carbon sequestration and storage, carbon emissions, and affecting the forest’s adaptability to future climate shifts. While the Draft Decision Notice states that the “relevant science” has been considered, no specific scientific sources or institutions are cited in this claim, and it is not clear whether the specific scientific resources offered by concerned commentors were consulted (such as data and studies provided by the USDA Northwest Climate Hub and Oregon State University). NEPA requires that agencies take a “hard look” at environmental consequences of their proposed actions and thoroughly consider alternatives with less detrimental impact.

As there has been no detailed assessment of how the proposed project may affect climate concerns as informed by the most recent and relevant science available, I believe this project fails to take a “hard look” at its potential impacts as required by NEPA and could cause significant harm to the environment if it proceeds as planned.

I would welcome a productive pre-decisional objection resolution meeting with MHNH staff. If you have any clarifying questions about this objection, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Jessica Morley