
File Code: 1570
Date: April 28, 2021

Dear Objector:

This letter is in response to objections filed on the Sawmill Petty Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision Notice released by Carolyn Upton, Forest Supervisor of the Lolo National Forest. 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. The regulations also allow for parties to meet to try to resolve issues. I met with several objectors virtually on April 1, 2021. Although we did not reach any resolutions, I appreciate the dialog and hearing directly from objectors.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS

As specified at 36 CFR 218.11(b), this is my response to your issues raised in objection. The review of 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. More detail regarding these instructions are included in the attached response document.

1. Correct statements in the project record stating that the minimum road system was identified in the 2015 Lolo National Forest Travel Analysis Process.
2. Clarify the decision being made for the transportation portion of the proposed action and reference the necessary documentation for the decision being made.
3. Describe in terms of the nine roadless characteristics, the existing condition, and the effects of the proposed action on the portion of the Garden Point IRA deemed to be substantially altered.



CONCLUSION

Upon incorporation of these instructions the Forest Supervisor may 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,

KEITH LANNOM
Deputy Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc: Carolyn Upton, Eric Tomasik, Cody Hutchinson, Tami Paulsen, Allen Byrd, Olga Troxel,
Kristen Stoeger