



File Code: 1950
Date: January 26, 2023

Comment Opportunity

Project Name: Tiger-Mill Project
Responsible Official: District Ranger, Aaron Gagnon
Project Contact: Project Lead, Joseph Sciarrino at joseph.sciarrino@usda.gov
Scoping Period: 30 days from the posting of the legal notice of availability in the East Oregonian.
Project Webpage: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62658>
Submit Comments: Via the CARA webform on the project webpage (other options listed on page 2)

Neighbor of the Walla Walla Ranger District,

This Scoping Letter introduces the Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) for the Tiger-Mill Project and begins the formal combined scoping and 30-day comment period. We may adjust the proposed action as described in the associated documents, design features, and/or mitigation based on responses to this solicitation for comment, findings from on-going field surveys, data collection and verification, and/or identification of any new concerns during interdisciplinary team and public discussion. After consideration of comments and additional analysis we will publish an Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Decision Notice for a 45-day objection period.

The Tiger-Mill Project is being proposed to protect the Mill Creek Municipal Watershed (MCMW) and restore ecosystem processes and functions that foster landscape diversity and achieve desired vegetation conditions. Landscape diversity allows for historical disturbance processes to occur at moderate levels with lower risk for uncharacteristic wildfire. The MCMW is administered by the Walla Walla Ranger District (WWRD) and provides approximately 85-90% of the drinking water supply used by the city of Walla Walla, WA. As a municipal water source, the entire MCMW is closed to public entry.

The proposed Project is an activity that implements the Forest Plan and therefore is subject to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Comments specific to the proposed action, that identify a cause-effect relationship and suggest remedies to address concerns, such as additional design features or alternative courses of action, are most helpful to me and may be reflected in the EA and draft Decision Notice.

This is a designated 30-day combined scoping and NOPA period; therefore, your comments must be received by methods described below within 30 days of the legal notice posting in the East Oregonian, the Forest newspaper of record. This is the only comment opportunity reviewers will have to establish standing to object by submitting comments as described below. I anticipate publication of the legal notice on or about January 26, 2023

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, we also invite comments on this undertaking and its effects on historic properties for the agency official to consider in decision making (36 CFR 800).

It is important that I understand any issues you may have with this proposed action and how you believe they could be addressed. In the context of our environmental analysis, "issues" are defined as substantive concerns with an aspect of the proposed action based on some effect you believe it would cause. Comments should be within the scope and scale of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2). I welcome comments in support of the proposed action as well as those identifying substantive issues to be considered.

Open House on February 15, 2023

To promote broad dissemination of information in fostering understanding of the project among our neighbors, we will host an Open House during the 30-day comment period on February 15, 2023, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Walla Walla Ranger District Office at 1415 W Rose St., Walla Walla, WA 99362. We welcome the interested public and agencies to

interact with our project lead and resources specialist on this project which is of local interest. To help us with venue planning, please let us know if you will be attending by contacting the WWRD office at 509-522-6290 NLT noon Feb 7, 2023.

Commenting

Any person or entity submitting/uploading a file with comments shall ensure that all comments are in the form of plain text (.txt), Word (.docx) or PDF (.pdf) only. A guideline to required formulation of comments is provided on the project webpage. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection under FOIA.

CARA Comment System: The Forest Service uses an internet-based-system for submission of comments that also facilitates our review and management of responses. It is accessible from the project webpage. Submit comments by selecting the "comment/object on project" button located on the right sidebar under "Get Connected" which will open the CARA webform where you can input/upload your comments. Names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of those who comment become part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection under FOIA.

Comments may be mailed to or dropped off at: Walla Walla Ranger District, District Ranger, Attn: Joseph Sciarrino, 1415 W Rose St., Walla Walla, WA 99362, between 8-4:30, M-F. Please specify comments are for the Tiger-Mill Project. We are no longer able to process handwritten comments due to time and capacity constraints and issues with challenges in review, legibility, and interpretation.

Objections (36 CFR 218)

The proposed action is subject to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments (36 CFR 218.2) about this proposed project or activity during this comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are defined by 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments. Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments to have eligibility to object as an individual. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(4). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Stay Connected to This Project Via the Internet:

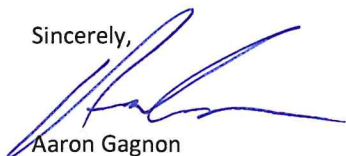
Project webpage: You may directly access the project webpage at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62658>. Project documentation will be posted there providing access to detailed maps and project information in real time/as updated.

Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA): Input "SOPA Umatilla" to your search engine; select Walla Walla Ranger District; then select Tiger-Mill Project.

Email Access to Notifications: If you choose not to submit comments, we will remove you from the contact list for this project. However, you may sign yourself up for email updates by using the "Subscribe to email updates" link in the menu on the right side of the project webpage.

I thank you for your interest and engagement in the management of Walla Walla Ranger District lands.

Sincerely,



Aaron Gagnon
District Ranger, Walla Walla Ranger District
Umatilla National Forest