



BEFORE THE REGIONAL FORESTER, INTERMOUNTAIN REGION, USDA FOREST SERVICE

PAYETTE FOREST COALITION

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Certification of Filing

This letter was timely filed by electronic transmission to
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61229>, ATTN: Objection Reviewing Officer

April 21, 2023

Dear Objection Reviewing Official:

The members of the Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) are requesting to meaningfully participate in the discussion and resolution of any objections that are received on the Railroad Saddle Forest Restoration Project. This request is submitted pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subpart B and § 218.5(a). The PFC is requesting to participate in the objection resolution process which might change any aspect of the published decision proposed by Payette National Forest (PNF) Forest Supervisor Linda L. Jackson on the New Meadows Ranger District.

The Payette Forest Coalition is a group of organizations and individuals which formed to work with the Payette National Forest on planning and executing large-scale forest landscape restoration projects. The goals of the PFC are to improve the forest's resiliency to wildfires, enhance access for recreation, resource management and safety; improve watershed health and water quality, improve habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species, and bring economic benefit to surrounding communities.

The PFC has been engaged in discussions and deliberations on this project area since the project's inception. The PFC reached consensus on recommendations to the Payette National Forest on April 21, 2022 with regard to support for the Proposed Action. The PFC supports a

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draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact that is aligned with the recommendations and our letters of May 5, 2022 (Proposed Action) and February 3, 2023 (Draft Environmental Assessment) the PFC has provided to the Forest on this project.

The PFC has invested significant time and effort developing recommendations for this project. We want to see the project successfully implemented in a timely manner and in such a way that projected benefits are realized and negative effects of no action or reduced vegetation and other restoration treatments are successfully avoided, minimized, and mitigated.

We support the project's overall purpose and feel that the draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact will have a beneficial impact on this landscape's forest health. As noted above, we have had extensive discussions on this project with the Payette National Forest and we look forward to proceeding with this important landscape restoration. We are concerned that if another party requests changes, the final outcome may not strike an appropriate balance between PFC's restoration goals and could result in action or inaction that the PFC does not support.

We request your consideration and immediate response to this letter requesting that the PFC be allowed to meaningfully participate in any and all objection resolution meetings and discussions for this project. We believe the PFC's participation in these projects is beneficial to the Forest and the PFC's continued support on these projects will contribute to our common goals.

Sincerely, Payette Forest Coalition Steering Team, Payette Forest Coalition

cc: Linda Jackson, Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest
Dana Harris, New Meadows District Ranger, Payette National Forest