

LEGAL NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT

USDA FOREST SERVICE

CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST, HEBGEN LAKE RANGER DISTRICT

South Plateau Landscape Area Treatment Project

The USDA Forest Service has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) and draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact (DN/FONSI) for the South Plateau Landscape Area Treatment Project. The proposed action is to be located on the Hebgen Lake Ranger District of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The project area consists of 39,909 acres located south and west of the town of West Yellowstone in Gallatin County, Montana. The project area extends from US Highway 20 on the north end, to the Montana-Idaho border on the west and south and the Yellowstone National Park boundary on the east. The Responsible Official for this decision is Jason Brey, Hebgen Lake District Ranger.

The Responsible Official is planning to implement the South Plateau Landscape Area Treatment proposed action which consists of: forest resilience treatments designed to meet the need to increase landscape resilience to insects and disease, hazardous fuels treatments, and access changes on Forest System Roads designed to improve water quality and riparian zone integrity and improve the condition of grizzly bear secure habitat in deficient Bear Management Subunits.

The EA and draft DN/FONSI for the South Plateau Landscape Area Treatment Project are available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57353>. These documents are also available on request at the Hebgen Lake Ranger District office, 330 Gallatin Rd, West Yellowstone, MT 59758. Additional information regarding this proposed action can be obtained from Amanda Williams, Interdisciplinary Team Leader at amanda.williams3@usda.gov.

The South Plateau Landscape Area Treatment Project is an activity implementing a land management plan. This activity is subject to pre-decisional objection under subparts A and B of 36 CFR Part 218.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed with the appropriate reviewing officer within 45 calendar days following publication of this notice in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, the newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Objectors should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to 36 CFR 218.9.

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunities for public comment in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless the issue is based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in 36 CFR 218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in 36 CFR 218.8(b). Objections that do not adhere to these requirements make review of an objection difficult and are conditions under which the reviewing officer may set aside an objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.10. All objections received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of

Published in Bozeman Daily Chronicle on 15 March 2023

those who object, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Electronic objections are preferred and must be submitted to the Objection Reviewing Officer online at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?project=57353>, with “SPLAT Project Objection” in the subject line. Electronic submissions must be submitted in a format that is readable with optical character recognition software (e.g., Word, PDF, Rich Text) and be searchable. An automated response should confirm your electronic objection has been received.

Written objections may be submitted via regular mail to: Reviewing Officer, Northern Regional Office, Attn: SPLAT, 26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804.

Objections sent by private carrier or hand delivery must be addressed to: Reviewing Officer, Mary Erickson, Northern Regional Office, 26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm, excluding Federal holidays, for hand delivery.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.