



File Code: 1950
Date: September 26, 2023

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Dear potentially interested or affected party,

I am pleased to announce the availability of the Payette National Forest Resilience and Fuels Reduction Prescribed Fire Project Environmental Assessment (EA) for public comment. The environmental assessment and other project documents are available online at the project's webpage at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63166&exp=overview>.

We are proposing to increase the pace and scale of prescribed burning to improve the resiliency of existing vegetation groups, restore proper ecological function to native vegetation communities and wildlife habitats, and improve firefighter and public safety. The proposed action would authorize up to 30,000 acres per year of prescribed burning, hand thinning, and mechanical thinning across the 1.3-million-acre proposed treatment area. All treatments would be designed to meet objectives and move areas toward the desired conditions in the Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. All treatments would be conducted within established guidelines, laws, regulations, and policies. The project area is exclusive of wilderness, research natural areas (RNAs), and lands of other ownership inside the National Forest boundary. It also mostly excludes project areas with decisions that have previously undergone a NEPA analysis that included prescribed fire

Public comments will be accepted for thirty days following publication of the legal notice in the newspaper of record, the Idaho Statesman (36 CFR 218.25(a)(1)(i)). A copy of this legal notice will be posted on the project webpage.

Comments may be submitted electronically through the project webpage (link above), by clicking on "Comment/Object on Project". Uploaded comments must be submitted in Word (.doc or .docx), pdf, or rich text (.rtf) format. Comments may also be mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered to the Payette National Forest Supervisors Office during normal business hours. To mail comments, please send them to:

Payette National Forest
Attn: Resilience and Fuels Reduction Prescribed Fire Project
500 North Mission Street
McCall, Idaho 83638

Comments must be postmarked by the end of the comment period (36 CFR 218.25(a)(4)(i)). Comments may be faxed to (208) 634-0744 with "Resilience and Fuels Reduction Prescribed Fire Project" in the subject line or hand-delivered to the Supervisor's Office during normal business hours.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and



considered. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requests for confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances.

For additional information, you may contact Patrick Schon, Fire Management Specialist, via email at patrick.schon@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

**LINDA
JACKSON**

Digitally signed by
LINDA JACKSON
Date: 2023.09.26
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LINDA L JACKSON
Forest Supervisor

cc: Patrick Schon, Kara Kirkpatrick-Kreitinger, Kevin Knesek, Dave Hogen, Dennis Benson, Dana Harris, Jeff Jones