



UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
FAX

Date: 10/27/2023 16:10:39

Subject: Resilience and Fuels Reduction Prescribed Fire Project

To:

From Email: Campbell.Scott.W@epa.gov

Organization:

Fax Number: 12086340744

of Pages: 7

Comments:

October 27, 2023

Patrick Schon
Payette National Forest
500 North Mission Street
McCall, Idaho 83638

Dear Patrick Schon:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's September 2023 Payette National Forest Resilience and Fuel Reduction Prescribed Fire Project Environmental Assessment (EPA Project Number 23-0044-USFS). EPA has conducted its review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and our review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The CAA Section 309 role is unique to EPA and requires EPA to review and comment publicly on any proposed Federal action subject to NEPA's environmental impact statement requirement.

The EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with prescribed burning, hand thinning, and mechanical thinning across the proposed treatment area up to 30,000 acres per year on the Payette



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155, 14-D12
Seattle, WA 98101-3144

REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATIVE
DIVISION

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Payette National Forest
500 North Mission Street
McCall, Idaho 83638

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's September 2022 Payette National Forest Resilience and Fuels Reduction Prescribed Fire Project Environmental Assessment (EPA Project Number 23-0044-USFS). EPA has conducted its review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and our review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The CAA Section 309 role is unique to EPA and requires EPA to review and comment publicly on proposed federal action subject to NEPA's environmental impact statement requirement.

The EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with prescribed burning, hand thinning, and mechanical thinning across the proposed treatment area up to 30,000 acres per year on Payette National Forest in central western Idaho. The EA identifies and evaluates the no action alternative and the Proposed Action.

EPA acknowledges the benefits of fuels reduction work for forest health, ecosystem services protection, and high-severity fire reduction. We also recognize that prescribed fire itself can be a public health concern if communities are exposed to unhealthy levels of smoke. EPA has concerns about potential air quality impacts resulting from prescribed burning to nearby communities. EPA notes the importance of reducing smoke impacts by coordinating with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, adhering to the Idaho Smoke Management Plan, and ensuring surrounding communities are well informed and smoke ready by working with local environmental groups and/or developing a robust community outreach plan.

We note that community members in wildfire-prone areas may experience mental health impacts and stress resulting from extended periods of hazardous air quality from wildfire smoke. After these life-disrupting experiences, any amount of smoke, including from prescribed burns, may cause stress to communities. Outreach is especially important to these communities to alleviate stress of impaired air quality. We recommend developing outreach strategies to inform communities of the benefits of prescribed burns, provide notifications of when burns are occurring, and assist communities with mitigation techniques to reduce their exposure to hazardous air quality.

EPA appreciates the two mapping tools available to the public to learn more about fuels treatments: Payette National Forest Planned Fuel Treatment Areas Map¹ and the Southwest Idaho Interagency

¹ <https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=08c46725b2264c99b3096b00d014b909>. Accessed 10/24/2023.

Treatments Map / Information website.² EPA did not find current programs in place to reach the public for smoke preparedness prior to a burn. We recommend the NEPA analysis for this project discuss the outreach approach to specific communities that may be impacted by impaired air quality. Both notification and information on smoke readiness are important. EPA's resource, "Smoke-Ready Toolbox for Wildfires,"³ may be helpful.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the EA for this project. If you have questions about this, please contact Scott Campbell of my staff at 206-553-6349 and campbell.scott.w@epa.gov, or at (206) 553-1774 or at chu.rebecca@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

REBECCA
CHU

Rebecca Chu, Chief
Policy and Environmental Review Branch

Digitally signed by
REBECCA CHU
Date: 2023.10.26 16:07:17
-0700'

² <https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=3fbf12463b7c442e854010e203800d48>, Accessed 10/24/2023.

³ <https://www.epa.gov/smoke-ready-toolbox-wildfires>, Accessed 10/24/2023.

HOME > LEGALS > LEGALS & PUBLIC NOTICES

Payette National Forest Resilience and Fuels Reduction Prescribed Fire Project Request for
Public Comment USDA Forest Service Payette National Forest Council, Krassel, McCool,
New Meadows, and Weiser Ranger Districts Adams, Idaho, Valley, Washington County,
Idaho

The Payette National Forest announces the public comment period on the Resilience and Fuels Reduction Prescribed Fire Project draft environmental assessment. The environmental assessment and other project documents are available online at the project's webpage at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project?project=63166>. 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. The area is exclusive of wilderness, research natural areas, lands of other ownership within the National Forest boundary, and mostly excludes project areas with decisions that have previously undergone a NEPA analysis that included prescribed fire. The project is not authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and is subject to subparts A and B of 36 CFR 218. The responsible official is Linda L. Jackson, Forest Supervisor, (208) 315-0746, linda.l.jackson@usda.gov.

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)). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. A copy of this legal notice will be posted on the project webpage.

Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection (36 CFR(a)(3) and (4)). For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request (36 CFR 218.5). Comments may be submitted electronically through the project webpage (link above), by clicking on "Comment/Object on Project." If you are uploading a file with comments, please submit this information in Word (.docx), pdf, or rich text (.rtf) format.

Comments may also be mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered to the Payette National Forest Supervisor's Office. To mail comments to the Supervisor's Office, please send Attention: Resilience and Fuels Reduction Prescribed Fire Project, 500 North Mission Street, P.O. Box 100, 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, will be made available to the public.

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 are granted in only very limited circumstances.

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

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Sep 27 2023

Post Date: 09/27 12:00 AM

Refcode: #IPL0141027 IP

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 19th day of September, 2023, the Council of Bannock County received the following requests.

THE REQUEST(S) ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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LEGAL NOTICE

AUCTION OF STORED GOODS

STOR-N-LOCK

5888 S Federal Way

Boise ID 83716

September 29, 2023

An auction to settle the delinquent accounts of the individuals listed below will be conducted ... [Show more »](#)

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