



F.H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER COMPANY

Lumber Manufacturers

PO Box 1429 Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Phone (406) 892-7005 Fax (406) 892-1612

www.stoltzelumber.com

November 28th, 2023

Objection Reviewing Officer
USDA Forest Service
Northern Region
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804



Member Company

Dear Mr. McKeague:

On behalf of F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co., thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for the Dry Riverside project during the Objection Period.

Stoltze is not writing this letter to Object to the Dry Riverside Project, rather we think the Project needs to quickly move forward using the proposed action. Stoltze provided scoping comments on December 15th, 2022, and Draft EA comments on September 29th, 2023.



Member Since 1966

Stoltze would like to outline the major reasons for our support along with suggested improvements during implementation

1. We are pleased to see that the Forest is will commercially harvest 3,727 acres and treat 3,693 acres non-commercially which is about 16% of the project area. However, we continue to urge the Forest to treat as many acres as possible when analyzing an area and producing an EA or EIS. Treating more acres reduces the planning cost per acre, generates more revenues from stumpage and maximizes attainment of the purpose and need.

Stoltze would like to remind the Forest that supporting local industry and providing useful raw materials to maintain a robust manufacturing sector should be a principal objective to any project including the Dry Riverside Project. Montana's forest products industry is one of the largest components of manufacturing in the state and employs roughly 7,000 workers earning about \$300 million annually. Without the raw material sold by the Forest Service, DNRC, and private lands these mills would be unable to produce the amount of wood products that the citizens of this country demand.



Charter Member

2. The EA mentions the largest percentage of riparian management zones fall under the Subalpine fir (AF)/ Engelmann spruce (ES)/ Tolerant mix (TMIX) composition. Treatments in the riparian management zones are proposed to improve tree growth, improve species composition, and reduce fuel loads in the stands. Commercial harvest is proposed within the outer riparian management zone which Stoltze strongly supports.
3. Stoltze is pleased to see that designation by prescription (DxP) is being used within the sale area. It is be a good option for designating the trees to be harvested and those who will be retained especially in commercial thinning, seed tree, and shelterwood harvests. Stoltze has worked on many USFS timber sales that have used DxP and it has been a great tool to further enhance forest treatments and forest health.
4. Stoltze believes that this project will help reduce the risk of wildfire, improve wildlife habitat, improve water and soil quality, all while providing jobs and raw materials for local sawmills.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for the Dry Riverside Project during the Objection Period. Should there be other Objections, Stoltze would like to be a part of the resolution meeting and have the ability to voice our support for the Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Bishop". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "B" and a trailing "P".

Matt Bishop
Forester
F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.