



File Code: 1570
Date: February 1, 2024

Dear Objector,

This letter is in response to the objection you filed on the proposed Dry Riverside vegetation treatment project, its associated Environmental Assessment (EA), and the Draft Decision Notice released by Tamara MacKenzie, Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Flathead National Forest. I have read your objection and reviewed the project record. My review of your objection was conducted in accordance with the administrative review procedures found at 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS

The regulations at 36 CFR 218.8 provide for a pre-decisional administrative review process in which the objector provides sufficient narrative description of the project, specific issues related to the project, and suggested remedies that would resolve the objection. In my review of your objection, I considered a variety of issues related to the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, Executive Order 14072 (Old Growth), the Roadless Rule, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change.

OBJECTION RESOLUTION MEETING

I invited all objectors to attend a resolution meeting on the afternoon of January 19, 2024, to discuss the issues they raised in their objections and propose potential remedies that would resolve their objections. Unfortunately, no objectors who were opposed to the project or aspects of the project confirmed that they would be able to attend so the objection resolution meeting was not held.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS AS REQUIRED BY 36 CFR 218.11(b)

After my review of the project's EA and Draft Decision Notice I find that the responsible official provided an adequate analysis of the issues raised by all objectors and provided acceptable documentation showing compliance with applicable law, regulation, and policy. Even so, your objection identified some areas within the EA and Draft Decision Notice that could be further clarified or updated with clearer connections and references to existing data and completed analyses; thank you. I appreciate your engagement throughout this process.

CONCLUSION

My review constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture;



no further review from any other Forest Service or Department of Agriculture official of my written response to your objection is available [36 CFR 218.11(b)(2)].

Sincerely,

DANIEL W MCKEAGUE
Deputy Regional Forester

cc: Anthony Botello, Tamara MacKenzie, Michele Draggoo, Gary Blazejewski, Kristopher Cahoon, Emma Reinemann