



BEFORE THE REGIONAL FORESTER, INTERMOUNTAIN REGION, USDA FOREST SERVICE

PAYETTE FOREST COALITION
Objector

**Objection to the Lost Creek-Boulder
Creek Draft Record of Decision, New
Meadows Ranger District, Payette
National Forest**

v.

Keith Lannom, Forest Supervisor
Responsible Official

Objector's Contact Information:

PAYETTE FOREST COALITION

P.O. Box 10

McCall, Idaho 83638

SteeringTeam@payetteforestcoalition.org

Certification of Filing

This objection was timely filed by electronic transmission to objections-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us, ATTN: Objection Reviewing Officer.

DATED this July 29, 2019.

Sincerely,

Payette Forest Coalition Steering Team

Objector's Notice, Statement of Reasons

Notice of Objection

Pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subpart B and § 218.5(a), the members of the Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) listed in Attachment 1 object to the Lost Creek-Boulder Creek (LCBC) project, proposed by Payette National Forest (PNF) Forest Supervisor Keith Lannom on the New Meadows Ranger District.

Connection between prior specific comments

The Payette Forest Coalition is a group of organizations and individuals which formed to work with the Payette National Forest on planning and executing large-scale forest landscape restoration projects. The goals of the PFC are to improve the forest's resiliency to wildfires, enhance access for recreation, resource management and safety; improve watershed health and water quality, improve habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species, and bring benefit to surrounding communities. The PFC has been engaged in discussions and deliberations on this project since it was initially introduced in March 2011. We have participated in numerous discussions about the specific aspects of the project during PFC meetings in 2011, 2012 and early 2013, covering vegetation and landscape restoration, fuels management and fire mitigation, management of terrestrial and aquatic species of interest in the project area and management of roads and recreation in the project area. The PFC reached consensus on recommendations to the Payette National Forest in January 2013 and again in March 2013, December 2013, and April 2014 with regard to support for the Proposed Action, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and draft Record of Decision, respectively.

Statement of Reasons

The PFC has invested significant time and effort developing recommendations for the LCBC project. We want to see the project successfully implemented in a timely manner and in such a way that projected benefits are realized and negative effects of no action or reduced vegetation and other restoration treatments are successfully avoided, minimized, and mitigated.

We support the project's overall purpose and feel that the draft ROD with FEIS errata (June 2019) will have a beneficial impact on this landscape's forest health. As noted above, we have had extensive discussions on this project with the Payette National Forest, and we look forward to proceeding with this important landscape restoration.

However, uncertainties exist in future steps toward re-implementation, in particular the potential for further ecologically-uninformed attempts at litigation. We intend to use the objection process as a means to strengthen the project record, participate in any objection resolution discussions with other objectors, address any remaining issues of uncertainty, and update the adaptive management approach to better guide project implementation as needed.

Should other objectors raise additional concerns or bring additional information to the Forest Service's attention, we hope to use the objection process to review this information and offer our perspective on any needed project modifications. We are concerned that if another party requests changes, the final outcome may not strike an appropriate balance between PFC's restoration goals.

If there are no other objections or no new relevant information is brought forward in the objection process and the Payette National Forest is committed to moving forward to re-implementation, the PFC would be willing to withdraw this objection.

Attachment 1

Timestamp	Name	Organization
7/19/2019 21:24:59	Charlie Caruso	Bacon Valley Ditch Company
7/19/2019 22:15:12	John Robison	Idaho Conservation League
7/20/2019 7:43:08	Lin Davis	Circle C Ranches
7/23/2019 12:15:36	Ron Hamilton	Adams County Natural Resources Committee
7/23/2019 14:35:53	Rick Tholen	Society of American Foresters
7/23/2019 20:01:32	Wendy Green	Adams Soil & Water Conservation District
7/24/2019 8:41:51	Sandra Mitchell	IRC
7/24/2019 9:01:22	Jim Wassmuth	Evergreen Forest
7/27/2019 9:01:04	Gloria Pippin	Heartland Back Country Horsemen
7/27/2019 10:28:08	Mac Lefebvre	Idaho Forest Group
7/29/2019 7:36:14	Mike Paradis	Adams County
7/29/2019 14:02:33	Rachel Vandenburg	Woodgrain Millwork
7/29/2019 16:14:08	Michael Gibson	Trout Unlimited