



File Code: 1570
Date: August 12, 2021

Dear Objector:

This letter is in response to your objections filed on the East Paradise Range Allotment Environmental Assessment and draft Decision Notice released by Alex Sienkiewicz, district ranger of the Yellowstone Ranger District. I have read your objections and reviewed the project record. My review of your objections was conducted in accordance with the administrative review procedures found at 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS

The regulations provide for a pre-decisional administrative review process of issues raised by objectors and suggested remedies that would resolve the objections. In my review I considered issues related to climate change, economics, invasive plants, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, livestock grazing, recreation, watershed and soils, and wildlife (including threatened and endangered species).

OBJECTION RESOLUTION MEETING

I conducted a virtual resolution meeting on July 30, 2021 to discuss possible remedies to objections. The purpose of these meetings is for the Reviewing Official to clarify objection issues as needed and to determine whether there are mutually agreeable means to resolve the objections. Five objectors attended the meeting: Jocelyn Leroux of Western Watersheds Project, Nancy Schultz and Clint Nagel of Gallatin Wildlife Association, Robert Aland and Michele Dieterich. Although we were not able to reach any specific resolutions, I was able to hear some additional clarification on particular issues and better understand the interests of the objectors.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS

As specified at 36 CFR 218.11(b), this letter is my response to your objections to the environmental assessment, draft decision notice and project record. The responsible official provided adequate analysis of issues raised and provided acceptable documentation of compliance with applicable law, regulation, and policy.

CONCLUSION

The responsible official may sign the decision notice for this project. My review constitutes the final administrative determination of the United States Department of Agriculture; no further review from any other Forest Service or United States Department of Agriculture official of my written response to your objection is available [36 CFR 218.11(b)(2)].

Sincerely,

MARY C. ERICKSON
Forest Supervisor

cc: Alex Sienkiewicz, Brian Sweatland, Theresa Seth, Cody Hutchinson, Olga Troxel

