



Payette Forest Coalition  
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December 16, 2021

Ms. Linda Jackson  
Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest  
500 N. Mission Street  
McCall, Idaho 83638

Supervisor Jackson:

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment for the Cold July Project. The PFC wishes to express our continued appreciation to you and the Cold July Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) for the opportunity to comment on the Cold July EA.

In our July 7, 2021 letter to you, we provided a status of our initial reaction to the proposed action. At the Cold July Restoration Project field visit on June 17, 2021, members of the Coalition and Forest Service discussed proposed vegetation treatments at the sites within the project landscape, including free thin, shelterwood, and aspen treatments. The PFC also visited a completed patch cut treatment site. The field visit allowed the PFC to better understand the proposed silvicultural practices for stands slated for regeneration harvest units. With that, we believe they are necessary and appropriate to reach desired conditions, improve forest resilience, and better prepare the landscape for threats of wildfire, insects and disease. Following the field visit, the Coalition voted that our concerns about the proposed silvicultural treatments had been satisfactorily addressed and would like to provide overall support for the Cold July Restoration Project.

The July 7 PFC letter recommended that the Environmental Assessment (EA) provide a detailed summary on the purpose and need for the Cold July Restoration Project's proposed treatments as well as historical background on the past proposed projects that fall under the same landscape. We also requested the EA include a brief outline of the Forest's intent to conduct projects following the Cold July Restoration Project that have a focus on watershed restoration or recreation within the former Lost Creek-Boulder Creek (LCBC) project landscape. We recommended that the EA should contain a discussion of how treatment units were categorized and that the treatments and how the treatment prescription in units that do not have a sufficient number of early-seral species to be considered a thinning will be more open to allow for regeneration of those species.

Our review of the Cold July EA released December 3, 2021 concludes that the above matters were sufficiently addressed. We support the implementation of the proposed action.

The PFC encourages the IDT to continue to refine the unit categorization for proposed vegetation treatments as more field assessments are completed, including noncommercial activities such as aspen regeneration, prescribed burning, and noncommercial thinning. While we understand that certain suggestions (watershed



restoration, road maintenance and sign updates) were found to be outside the scope of this focused EA, we urge the Forest Service to consider these actions for future project planning.

The PFC supports the proposed action in the Cold July Environmental Assessment and appreciates the work of the IDT on the design and analysis of this project. We look forward to successful implementation and monitoring.

Thank you once again.

PFC Steering Team