

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/2/2020 4:08:37 AM

First name: Kristin

Last name: Alligood

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for providing the public opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS, according to the NEPA process. I am in the process of reviewing the draft EIS for this project, but I'm writing to ask that the Forest Service extend the public comment review period from 45 days to 120 days to allow for adequate review.

The NEPA process is in place to ensure that the public and stakeholders have the ability to review, digest, and provide feedback on the document. Unfortunately, in our new COVID world, 45 days is simply not enough time for the public to adequately review the details of this lengthy document. It is critical that stakeholders, who are busy with many other projects and navigating the challenges of family life during a pandemic, are given ample time to review the alternatives and assess the mitigation measures that are proposed in the Draft EIS. As a technical specialist working for a sustainable future in agriculture and conservation, I understand the value of bringing people together who have different backgrounds and political views in an effort to find creative solutions for using our natural resources in ways that will have benefits for everyone. As a PhD specializing in fish evolutionary genetics, I understand the time needed to be able to deeply assess the impacts of projects on threatened fish in our rivers. To adequately understand the impacts of the project and to show that the Forest Service is in good faith providing the plan to the public for review, particularly given these uncertain times, the Forest Service **MUST** extend the comment period.

Thank you for considering my plea to lengthen the review process so that no further harm is done to an area special to many.