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Organization:

Title:

Comments: January 18, 2021

Dear Chief Christiansen,

Sandpoint District Ranger Jessie Berner is proposing to sell the Scattered Lands restoration project which will harvest timber on 6,167 acres. I expected to comment on a pre-decisional EA or DEIS prepared for this project.

After reading her January 4, 2021 "Dear Friends and Neighbors" letter I realized that would not be possible. The letter states:

"Comment Period Overview

The purpose of this letter and the accompanying "Scattered Lands Comment Period Packet" and preliminary effects analysis is to share information regarding the proposed Scattered Lands project. It describes the need for fuels reduction work in the area, proposed activities, design features and preliminary effects that the Responsible Official is taking into consideration. A detailed description of the proposed action and other information are available for review on the project website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58631>.

Environmental Assessments must provide an opportunity for public comment and this comment period satisfies this requirement. Unless the Responsible Official chooses to provide an additional opportunity to submit written comments, this combined scoping comment period will be the only time written comments are solicited for the Scattered Lands project. The Responsible Official will consider all written comments received during project development."

Here is the link to the letter:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/114241_FSPLT3_5572866.pdf

A "preliminary effects analysis" is not is not an Environmental Assessment.

It's unclear whether Idaho Panhandle NF Supervisor Higgins approved this.

Please direct Supervisor Higgins to tell Ranger Berner to complete an EA or EIS before moving forward with this project.

Thank you,