
File Code: 1570; 1950
Date: January 4, 2021

Ms. Cathryn Payne
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Payne:

This letter is in response to your objection (#20-06-00-0606-218(B)) to the draft Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Camping and Campfires Forest Order, Deschutes National Forest. I have read your objection and reviewed the project record, the draft DN/FONSI, and the final revised Environmental Assessment (EA). My review of your objection was conducted in accordance with the regulation at 36 CFR 218 (2013).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On September 3, 2020, a legal notice was published in *The Bulletin* (Bend, OR) announcing the Predecisional Administrative Review (Objection) Period for the draft DN/FONSI and final revised EA for the Camping and Campfires Forest Order. In the draft DN/FONSI, the Responsible Official selected Alternative 2, which would issue a long-term forest order that would prohibit camping and/or campfires in twelve areas across the Forest where these activities are causing adverse impacts to forest resources. The proposed forest order would enable law enforcement to enforce the forest order under 36 CFR 261 regulations and would replace eight existing forest orders that date back to the 1990s.

OBJECTION ISSUE DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Your objection was focused on the impacts from homeless camps that are adjacent to private property and in particular, the potential for campfires in those camps to spread onto private land. You were also concerned about impacts to deer and your suggested resolution is to relocate the camps, which is outside the scope of the proposed action.

The Forest addressed the majority of your concerns in the response to comments. In addition, Kevin Larkin (Bend-Fort Rock District Ranger) called you on November 13, 2020, to discuss your objection. You discussed the proximity of camps (especially homeless camps) to private property, and the fire danger and garbage accumulation from these camps. Your recommended remedy is for arrangements to be made to house homeless individuals away from private property as noted above.



Upon review of the record, the Forest adequately addressed your concerns in the response to comments. While no remedies or resolutions are needed based upon the review, as discussed with District Ranger Kevin Larkin on November 13, 2020, the Forest commits to continuing to work with you and the communities near China Hat on garbage abatement, fire risk, and other issues related to ongoing forest use. Mr. Larkin will reach out to you directly to discuss next steps, as you were unable to attend the objection resolution meeting, which was held on December 11, 2020.

In summary, I conducted my review of the record, final EA, and draft DN/FONSI; based on my review, I conclude the following:

- The draft decision clearly describes the actions to be taken in sufficient detail that the reader can easily understand what will occur as a result of the draft decision.
- The draft decision considered a range of alternatives that was adequate to respond to the Purpose and Need. The purpose and need and alternatives considered in the final EA reflect a reasonable range of alternatives, consistent with law, regulation and policy.
- The draft decision is consistent with or moves toward attainment of Forest Plan standards and guidelines.
- The draft decision is consistent with policy, regulation, law, direction, and the final EA contains adequate evidence to support the decision. The record and final decision contain site-specific documentation regarding resource conditions, and the Responsible Official's draft decision document is based on the record and reflects a reasonable conclusion.

This concludes my written review of the project. By copy of this letter, the Responsible Official may sign the decision, then notify interested and affected persons in accordance with the regulation at 36 CFR 218.12 and 36 CFR 220.7(d). This written response is the final administrative review by the Forest Service or the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR 218.11(b)(2)].

Sincerely,

DEBORAH HOLLEN  Digitally signed by
DEBORAH HOLLEN
Date: 2021.01.04
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DEBBIE A. HOLLEN
Deputy Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region
Objection Reviewing Officer

cc: Holly Jewkes, Shanda Dekome, Kevin Larkin, Ian Reid, Sasha Fertig, Alicia Underhill, Sara Baughman, Debbie Anderson, Sue Dixon, Heidi Hopkins