



File Code: 1950

Date: August 31, 2010

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Pack and Saddle Stock Outfitter-Guide Special Use Permit Issuance is available electronically on the Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/projects/projects.shtml>. The analysis for the DEIS was conducted by an Interdisciplinary Team of Forest Service resource specialists. The project area includes most of the Methow Valley Ranger District, and a portion of the Chelan and Tonasket Ranger Districts in central Washington. The proposed action responds to existing applications for priority use permits from current pack and saddle stock outfitter-guides, meets the determined minimum extent necessary for commercial services in wilderness, and amends the forest plans to correct conflicting management direction pertaining to barren core in established campsites.

Based on comments received during the scoping phase of this project, several key issues focused on impacts to wilderness character, wetlands, water quality, and wildlife habitat were identified. The No Action and two Action Alternatives were developed to address key issues. At this time, the preferred alternative is Alternative 2 (issuance of 10-year permits).

If you wish to obtain a paper copy of the Summary or Draft Environmental Impact Statement, please contact us at the number provided below.

Your assistance in reviewing this DEIS is requested to ensure our range of alternatives have addressed the key issues and the potential environmental consequences have been adequately assessed. It would be especially helpful if you could focus your comments on specific points or subject areas in the document. Comments received during the comment period enable Forest Service specialists to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use the information in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), thus avoiding undue delay in the decision-making process. When the FEIS is complete, a decision will be made. Please submit comments to:

Michael C. Liu, District Ranger
Methow Valley Ranger District
24 West Chewuch Road
Winthrop, WA 98862
(Phone: 509-996-4003; FAX: 509-996-2208)

If you prefer, you may submit your comments electronically to: comments-pacificnorthwest-okanogan-methowvalley@fs.fed.us. Please include the project name in the subject line and submit comments either as part of the e-mail message or as an attachment in one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf) or



Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf).

Comments for the DEIS will accepted during the 45 day comment period. Accordingly, ***your comments must be hand delivered, e-mailed, or postmarked to the comment address no later than October 25, 2010.***

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Zbyszewski or Laurie Dowie at (509) 996-4003.

Thank you for your participation in this project.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL C. MU
District Ranger