

**Pack and Saddle Stock Outfitter-  
Guide Special Use Permit Issuance  
Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
Comment Period Extension**

The Forest Supervisor of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest announces the comment period for the Pack and Saddle Stock Outfitter-Guide Special Use Permit Issuance Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement has been extended to February 8, 2017. The Notice of Availability for this document was published in the Federal Register on November 25, 2016, establishing a comment period of November 25, 2016 through January 9, 2017.

The Draft Supplemental EIS, incorporates new information based on a revised Needs Assessment completed in 2016 which resulted in new calculations for the extent necessary for commercial service in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness areas. Alternative 4 of the FEIS was modified to meet the new extent necessary (used to determine the number of service days for which commercial outfitters and guides in Wilderness), reducing the number of service days for commercial outfitters and guides in both Wilderness areas, and the overall number of service days for all areas of the permits. The modification of Alternative 4 changed the projected environmental effects for some resource areas, such as wilderness, with minor changes in the effects to some of the other resources. Updated condition information was also incorporated by this DSEIS, including changes in gray wolf populations and grazing allotment status. The DSEIS also makes minor corrections to the FEIS, and expands some of the cumulative effects analysis.

The project area is located, on the Tonasket, Methow Valley, and Chelan Ranger Districts. Project area includes all Forest Plan MA 15B areas (trailed) in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness Areas on the Okanogan National Forest, and the portion of the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness on the Wenatchee National Forest allocated to Transition, Primitive, and Semi-Primitive, and the North Cascades, Sawtooth Backcountry, Bear/Ramsey/Volstead, Middle Methow, and Alta Lake areas.

Comments on the project must be postmarked no later than February 8, 2017, and should be addressed to Forest Supervisor, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, c/o Jennifer Zbyszewski, Methow Valley Ranger District, 24 West Chewuch Road, Winthrop, WA 98862 (Phone: (509) 996-4021; FAX: (509) 996-2208; e-mail address: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=3752>.

Those submitting hand-delivered comments may do so during regular office hours, 7:45AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. Those submitting electronic copies must do so only to the e-mail address listed above, must put the project name in the subject line, and must either submit comments as part of the e-mail message or as an attachment only in one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf) or Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf). E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed above or in other formats than those listed or containing viruses will be rejected. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure their comments are received in a timely manner. For electronically mailed comments the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of the comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

Only those who submit timely (within that 45 day comment period) and specific written comment regarding the project during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218. This includes those who previously submitted comments during previous public comment periods (36 CFR 218.2). To establish eligibility to object, each individual or entity submitting timely specific comment must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

Anyone wishing to review the project or obtain additional information on the project should contact Jennifer Zbyszewski at (509) 996-4021.

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