USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Payette National Forest | 800 W Lakeside Ave McCall ID 83638-3602 208 634-0700

File Code: 1950
Date: June 11, 2012

Dear Reviewer:

The Forest Service, Payette National Forest, Krassel Ranger District, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Golden Hand No. 1 and No. 2 Lode Mining Claims Project, located in the Big Creek drainage on the Payette National Forest, approximately 19 miles north of Yellow Pine, Idaho. The DEIS describes and displays an analysis of two action alternatives.

Roughly 291 acres of the Frank Church River of No Return Wildness (FC-RONR Wilderness) lie within the Golden Hand No. 1 and No. 2 Lode Mining Claims Project Area. Project activities including the authorization of temporary roads and use of mechanized equipment for confirmation activity would occur within the FC-RONR Wilderness.

I am notifying you of the 45-day opportunity to comment under 36 CFR 215. The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official, Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest. Only those who provide comment or express interest in this proposal during this comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

The alternative descriptions, effects analysis, and other information are contained in the DEIS. The DEIS will be posted on the Forest's website (http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=37756). Hard copies or CD's of the DEIS are readily available upon request at the address and phone number listed below. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from Jeff Hunteman, at 500 North Mission, McCall, Idaho, 83638; or by calling (208) 634-0434.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning these actions will be accepted for 45 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the *Federal Register*, tentatively scheduled to appear on June 29, 2012. The publication date in the *Federal Register* is the exclusive means for calculating the length of the comment period. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to: Payette National Forest, ATTN: Keith Lannom, 800 W. Lakeside Ave., McCall, ID 83638. The office hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments can also be submitted by FAX to (208) 634-0433.

Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone (208) 634-0700 or in person. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-intermtn-payette-krassel@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Comments received in response to this request will be available for public inspection and will be released in their entirety if requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

Keith B. Lannom

KEITH B. LANNOM
Forest Supervisor