

Legal Notice Opportunity to Object Stonewall Vegetation Project, Forest Service, Helena National Forest, Lincoln Ranger District. The Responsible Official, Helena National Forest Supervisor William Avey, has made available a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Stonewall Vegetation Project and its associated draft Record of Decision (draft ROD). The Stonewall Vegetation Project area covers approximately 24,010 acres within Lewis and Clark and Powell Counties, Montana. The Stonewall project area is approximately 4 miles north and west of the town of Lincoln, Montana. The legal description for the project area is all or portions of Township (T) 14 North (N), Range (R) 9 West (W), sections 5-8, 17, 18, 20, 29; T14N, R10W, sections 1, 2, 11-13; T15N, R8W, sections 19, 20, 29, 30-32; T15N, R9W, sections 7, 8, 10, 11, 14-36; T15N, R10W, sections 25, 35 and 36; Principle Meridian, Lewis and Clark and Powell Counties, Montana

The Stonewall Vegetation FEIS considered three alternatives in detail – the No Action and two action alternatives. Alternative 1 is the No Action alternative, which provides a baseline for comparing the magnitude of environmental effects of the action alternatives. Alternative 2 was the agency’s proposed action. Alternative 3 was created in response to issues raised during public scoping. A site specific Forest Plan amendment for hiding cover on summer range and the open road density/hiding cover ratio during the hunting season (Big Game Standards 3and 4(a) respectively, and Management Area T2 and T3 is required under both action alternatives (Alternatives 2 & 3).

The Stonewall Vegetation project’s draft ROD identifies the selection of an alternative which is a combination of activities from each of the action alternatives analyzed in the FEIS. The draft ROD identifies management activities on 6,449 acres. This draft decision includes commercial harvest (1,389 acres), pre-commercial vegetation treatments (883 acres), prescribed burning (6,027 acres), temporary road building (0.9 miles - which will be obliterated after implementation), and road maintenance (31.5 miles). This decision results in 18,498 CCF. The draft decision includes 3,565 acres of prescribed burning within the Bear Marshall Scapegoat Swan and Lincoln Gulch Inventoried Roadless Areas. There would be no timber harvest or road construction/reconstruction within the inventoried Roadless areas. A site specific Forest Plan amendment for hiding cover on summer range and the open road density/hiding cover ratio during the hunting season (Big Game Standards 3and 4(a) respectively, and Management Area T2 and T3 is required for the combination of activities as identified in the draft ROD.

The FEIS, maps, appendices, and draft ROD are also posted on the Helena National Forest website. They can be accessed at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/helena/landmanagement/projects>. Printed copies are available at the Lincoln Ranger District, 1569 Highway 200, Lincoln, MT 59639. Additional information can be obtained from David Shanley-Dillman, Project Leader at 406-731-5329. The Stonewall Vegetation Project FEIS and draft decision are subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B. **How to file an Objection and Timeframes:** Objections on the Stonewall Vegetation Project will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding these planning efforts during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding these planning efforts unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities. Objections,

including attachments, must be filed via mail, express delivery, or messenger service to: Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807); FAX to (406) 329-3411; email to appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us; or by hand-delivery (Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding holidays at USDA Forest Service, 200 East Broadway, Missoula, MT 59807. An automated response will confirm the electronic objection has been received. Electronic objections must be submitted in MS Word, Word Perfect, or Rich Text Format (RTF). The subject line for electronic objections should contain the name of the plan being objected to. Objections on the Stonewall Vegetation FEIS and draft Decision must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Helena Independent Record. The publication date in the Helena Independent Record (newspaper of record) is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection. The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process. At a minimum, an objection must meet minimum requirements described in 36 CFR 218.8(d) for the Stonewall Vegetation Project. These include: 1) The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available; 2) a signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for Email may be filed with the objection), 3) when multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request); 4) the name of the proposed plan or plan amendment, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed plan or plan amendment will be implemented; 5) a description of those aspects of the proposed plan or plan amendment addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed plan or plan amendment if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; and supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and 6) a statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed plan, plan amendment or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunity for formal comment.

- END -