

File Code: 1950
Date: February 5, 2016

Interested Party,

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Draft Record of Decision (ROD) has been completed for the Kahler Dry Forest Restoration Project proposed by the Heppner Ranger District, Umatilla National Forest. The Kahler project planning area is approximately 32,000 acres in size and is located in Wheeler and Grant Counties, Oregon, approximately 30 miles south of Heppner, Oregon.

The FEIS analyzed four (4) alternatives, including no action. Per requirements of 36 CFR 218, the FEIS is being released to the public in order to initiate the 45-day objection period.

The selected alternative is Alternative 3 with modifications:

- Trees greater than 21 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) will not be harvested with this decision. (Forest plan amendment will not be required.)
- Satisfactory cover, marginal cover, and the habitat effectiveness index within Kahler Basin and Monument Elk Winter Ranges (Management Area C3) will not be reduced below existing levels. (Forest plan amendment will not be required.)

You may view the FEIS at the following internet address:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=40712>

If you would like a copy of the FEIS, please contact John Evans at 541-278-3869, or by email at johnhevens@fs.fed.us.

Instructions for Objections

The 45-day objection period will start on the date of the publication in the newspaper of record (the East Oregonian).

Only individuals or organizations that submitted specific written comments during a designated opportunity for public participation (such as scoping or the 45-day comment period for Draft EIS) may object (36 CFR 218.5). Notices of objection must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218.8(d); incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b).

Objections must be mailed to: Regional Forester, Objection Reviewing Officer, Pacific Northwest Region, USDA Forest Service, Attn: 1570 Appeals and Objections, PO Box 3623,



Portland, OR 97208-3623. Objections delivered by mail must be received before the close of the fifth business day after the objection filing period.

Electronic objections must be emailed to: objections-pnw-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Please put OBJECTION and the project name in the subject line. Electronic objections must be submitted as part of an actual e-mail message or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. For electronically mailed objections, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement of the receipt of the objection; it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. Objections may also be hand delivered to the Pacific Northwest Regional Office, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Edith Green Wendell Wyatt Federal Building, Portland, Oregon 97204 between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday except legal holidays. Objections may also be faxed to: Regional Forester, Attn: 1570 Objections at (503) 808-2339.

Objections must be postmarked or received by the Reviewing Officer, Regional Forester, within 45-days from the date of publication of the notice of the objection in the East Oregonian (newspaper of record).

The publication date in the East Oregonian is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to file an objection should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

For additional information concerning the Kahler FEIS or the Forest Service objection process; contact Ann Niesen, District Ranger, Heppner Ranger District, Umatilla National Forest, PO Box 7, Heppner, OR 97836, or call 541-676-9187.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Masters

GENEVIEVE MASTERS
Forest Supervisor