

## Legal and Public Notice

### RF-38 Test Drill Preliminary Decision Memo 30-Day Comment Period

The Gold Beach Ranger District, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, has prepared a Preliminary Decision Memo for test drilling to obtain core samples of minerals on an existing claim in the Red Flat area about eight miles east-southeast of the city of Gold Beach, Curry County, Oregon. Activities would consist of drilling 35 holes, 3-inches in diameter to a maximum depth of 50 feet. Drilling would occur in previously disturbed areas in or adjacent to existing classified and unclassified roads via a portable low impact drilling rig. Water needed for the drilling process will be obtained from a municipal source and trucked to the site. No tree removal, road construction, or road reconstruction would occur. About one acre in total would be occupied over the life of the project and holes would be about 500 feet apart. After drilling, each hole would be plugged and the area restored to its original condition, to the extent possible.

In light of a recent court ruling (Sequoia ForestKeeper v. Tidwell, 11-cv-00679-LJO-DLB (E.D. Cal.)), the Forest Service will provide public notice, comment, and opportunity for administrative appeal for projects and activities documented with a "Decision Memo" (36 CFR 220.6(e)) until new instructions are issued by the Washington Office, or the Agency issues regulations addressing the Court's ruling.

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. 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 solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection.

Comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the Curry County Reporter. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period.

Please submit electronic comments to [comments-pacificnorthwest-siskiyou-goldbeach@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-siskiyou-goldbeach@fs.fed.us). Submit written and hand-delivered comments to: Tina Lanier, District Ranger, Gold Beach Ranger District, 29279 Ellensburg Ave, Gold Beach, OR 97444; or fax to (541) 247-3617. Business hours are: 8:00 AM-4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be submitted during normal business hours in person or to (541) 247-3600. 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.

The preliminary decision is available at [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=41652](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41652) or from the Gold Beach Ranger District office. For additional information contact Holly Witt at (541) 247-3688.

---

Published: November 13, 2013, in the Curry County, Reporter, Gold Beach, Oregon.