



File Code: 1950
Date: December 13, 2016

Dear Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies:

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) and Lolo National Forest (LNF) have completed a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) and Draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lookout Pass Ski Area Expansion Project. The entire FEIS and Draft ROD can be reviewed and downloaded at the project website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=43757>.

Lookout Pass Ski and Recreation Area is located approximately 12 miles east of Wallace, Idaho, along Interstate 90 on the Idaho-Montana border, and it operates in accordance with the terms and conditions of a special-use permit, which is administered by the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service).

In March 2016, the Forest Service published the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) analyzing the impacts of proposed ski expansion activities. Fifty-five non-duplicate comment letters were received on the DEIS that pointed out specific errors or omissions. The FEIS includes changes resulting from comments to the DEIS. The FEIS also includes all comments received on the DEIS and the Forest Service's responses.

As described in the Draft ROD for the Lookout Pass Ski Area Expansion, I have decided to implement Alternative 2 with modifications as the Selected Alternative. Based on my careful review of the FEIS and public comments, I have determined that the Selected Alternative will best meet the purpose and need. The alternative also addresses issues, is responsive to public comments, and complies with laws, regulations, and policy. The Selected Alternative is within the range of actions and effects analyzed and disclosed in the FEIS.

Copies of the FEIS and Draft ROD are being mailed to individuals, agencies, or organizations who previously requested copies or commented on the DEIS. Both of these documents can be reviewed and downloaded at the project website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=43757>. If you wish to review a hardcopy version or compact disk (CD) of the FEIS and Draft ROD, please contact Kerry Arneson, Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District NEPA Planner, at (208) 769-3021 (email karneson@fs.fed.us). Hardcopies and CDs will be available at the Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District's Fernan Office in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the Silver Valley Office in Smeltonville, Idaho, and the Superior Ranger District Office in Superior, Montana.

This project is subject to review and objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218 regulations. A written objection, including attachments, must be submitted to the reviewing officer within 45 calendar days following publication of the legal notice of the objection period in the Coeur d'Alene Press, which is the newspaper of record. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to 36 CFR 218.9. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Objectors should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

The following address should be used for objections sent by regular mail, private carrier, or hand delivery:

Objection Reviewing Officer
USDA Forest Service, Northern Region



Building 26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, Montana 59804

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays.

Electronic objections must be submitted by email to appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us, with "Lookout Project" typed in the subject line. Electronic objections must be submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or rich text format (.rtf). The telephone number for faxed objections is (406) 329-3411.

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in 36 CFR 218.8(d), and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in 36 CFR 218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to 36 CFR 218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

The objection must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 218.8(d), and include the following information:

- The objector's name and address, with a telephone number or email address, if available.
- A signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection).
- When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector as defined in 36 CFR 218.2 (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request).
- The name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the national forest and ranger district on which the project will be implemented.
- A description of those aspects of the project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the project and, if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy. Additionally, please include suggested remedies that would resolve the objection and supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider.
- A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunity for formal comment.

Incomplete responses to these requirements make review of an objection difficult and are conditions under which the reviewing officer may set aside an objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.10. If no objections are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, the fifth business day following the end of the objection filing period (36 CFR 218.12), depending upon the availability of funding.

When objections are filed, approval of project activities will not occur until the pre-decisional review process is complete and a final Record of Decision issued. No decision will be signed until the reviewing officer has responded in writing to all pending objections, and all concerns and instructions identified by the reviewing officer in the objection response have been addressed.

I am the responsible official for the Lookout Pass Ski Area Expansion Project. For more information concerning the project, please contact, please contact Kerry Arneson, Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District NEPA Planner, at (208) 769-3021 (email karneson@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,



Fur
MARY FARNSWORTH
Forest Supervisor