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SEP 16 2019

File Code: 1950

Date: September 13, 2019

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Dear Interested Party,

I am releasing a *Draft* Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Canyon Lake Dam Access for Repair Project. My selected alternative is the Proposed Action. Specifically, the selected alternative would authorize approximately thirty-two (32) round trip helicopter flights to allow Canyon Creek Irrigation District to airlift motorized equipment and heavy, bulky construction materials needed to repair and stabilize the embankment on Canyon Lake Dam, safely and effectively.

You are receiving this letter because you commented during a public comment period or otherwise indicated that you would like to receive additional information for this project. Two documents are being released at this time. One is the draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact. The second is an updated environmental assessment which contains a detailed description of the project and potential environmental effects. These documents are available on our website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55165>

Pre-Decisional Administrative Review (Objection) Process

This decision is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B. A written objection must be submitted to the reviewing officer within 45 calendar days following publication of the legal notice of the objection period in the Ravalli Republic, which is the newspaper of record. It is the responsibility of objectors to ensure their objections are received in a timely manner (36 CFR 218.9(a)). 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 time requirements provided by any other source. Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the project during the scoping and opportunity for comment periods in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

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). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.



The following address should be used for objections:

Objection Reviewing Officer
USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804

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

Electronic objections must be submitted via an email to appeals-northern-regional-office@usda.gov. Please include "Canyon Lake Dam Access for Repair Project Objection" in the subject line. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format that can be read with optical character recognition software. The number for faxed objections is (406) 329-3411.

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 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; 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.

When objections are filed, approval of project activities will not occur until the pre-decisional review process is complete and a final decision notice issued. A decision will not 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.

All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Where to Get More Information

For more details, please refer to the complete EA and *Draft* DN/FONSI, along with supporting documentation, available on the Bitterroot National Forest website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55165>

The documents are also available at the Supervisor's Office at 1801 North 1st St., Hamilton, MT 59840. Office business hours are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

For additional information, please contact Amy Fox, at amy.fox@usda.gov or (406) 363-7120.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Anderson', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

MATTHEW ANDERSON
Forest Supervisor