



File Code: 1570 (218)
Date: May 30, 2019

Dear Objector:

This letter is in response to the objections filed on the Darby Lumber Lands Phase 2 Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision Notice released by Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor Matt Anderson. I have read your objections and reviewed the project record. My review of your objection was conducted in accordance with the administrative review procedures found at 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS

As specified at 36 CFR 218.11(b), I must provide a written response to your objections; however this response need not be point by point. **The review of each objection issue has been posted to the Darby Lumber Lands Phase 2 project website in a document titled “DarbyLumberLandsP2-ORO-Response”.**

OBJECTION REVIEW, RESOLUTION MEETING, AND INSTRUCTIONS TO THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL

Based on my review, **I am instructing the Responsible Official to further consider the issue of commercial harvest in Management Area (MA) 8b while ensuring the purpose and need is met.** This issue was raised by numerous objectors both in written objections and at the objection resolution meeting, which was held on May 21, 2019. Objectors noted that the purpose and need of the project could be met without commercial harvest within treatment units within MA 8b. The Responsible Official noted in the analysis that this area is within the Wildland Urban Interface and must be treated in order to reduce hazardous fuels.

My Instructions:

- 1. Treatment units within MA 8b which warrant commercial harvest will continue to be treated commercially, and units that do not will be treated with precommercial thinning and/or prescribed burning only.**
- 2. Treatment units not commercially treated will not need the temporary roads that would have facilitated commercial harvest.**

We discussed multiple issues at the objection resolution meeting in addition to the issue of commercial harvest in MA 8b: motorized trails and access, the project specific amendment to the 1987 Forest plan regarding elk, dust abatement, road and timber harvest actions proposed in Management Area 8b, dwarf mistletoe, level of analysis, roads analysis, project documentation. Responses to each of these issues is included in the “DarbyLumberLandsP2-ORO-Response” document posted on the project website.

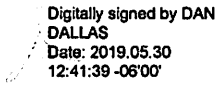


CONCLUSION

My review finds the project is in compliance with all applicable laws and the Bitterroot National Forest Plan (1987), as amended and no further action is warranted. Once instructions are addressed, the Forest Supervisor may sign the Decision Notice for this project. My review constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture; no further review from any other Forest Service or Department of Agriculture official of my written response to your objection is available [36 CFR 218.11(b)(2)].

Sincerely,

DAN
DALLAS
DAN DALLAS
Objection Review Officer



Digitally signed by DAN
DALLAS
Date: 2019.05.30
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cc: Matt Anderson, Eric Winthers, Amy Fox, Cody Hutchinson, Olga Troxel