



File Code: 1950
Date: August 3, 2021

Partners, Stakeholders and interested members of the public

Dear Partners, Stakeholders and interested members of the public

I am proposing a project to produce commercial yields of timber and enhance huckleberry productivity, augment development of old-growth forest characteristics on Late Successional Reserve lands, accelerate achievement of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy on Riparian Reserve lands, improve quality and availability of terrestrial and aquatic habitat and maintain a safe and efficient transportation network, and implement a number of restoration activities to improve the aquatic and terrestrial environment within the Yellowjacket Creek and Cispus River-Camp Creek subwatersheds. A full description of the proposal is found on the Forest Service web site at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/giffordpinchot/landmanagement/projects>.

Analysis at the landscape scale is a process used to characterize the human, aquatic, and terrestrial resources, and interactions within an area. The proposed actions contained in this project are a product of that analysis that we designed to improve the health and vigor of forest communities, provide renewable forest products, enhance wildlife habitat, address impacts to water quality and improve access and recreation opportunities across the project area. The need for action is driven by a discrepancy between our findings of the existing conditions and the desired conditions as defined by the 1990 Land and Resource Management Plan as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan, the 1997 Gifford Pinchot Late Successional Reserve Assessment 1997, and the 2003 Lower Cispus Watershed Analysis.

To make an informed decision about this project, I need your help. Your comments about our proposal can raise issues that will drive the creation of alternatives to better achieve the goals of this project. You can help in the planning process by sharing any concerns or information you may have about these proposals. We will use your comments to help determine the appropriate scope of environmental analysis to conduct.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request that a submission be withheld from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that confidentiality is granted in only very limited circumstances. The Forest Service will inform the requester of its decision regarding a request for confidentiality. Where the request is denied, the submission will be returned, and the requester notified that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.

Your comments regarding the proposed action will help me decide whether to implement the proposed action or an alternative and are important to the analysis of this project. The proposed



project is subject to pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

Individuals or organizations wishing to comment are requested to do so between the date of this letter and September 3, 2021.

Please provide the following information as part of your comments:

- i. Name and address;
- ii. Title of the proposed action. (Yellowjacket);
- iii. Specific comments on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision;
- iv. Signature or other verification of identity upon request.

Comments can be mailed to:

District Ranger Nikia Hernandez
Cowlitz Valley Ranger District
PO Box 670
Randle, WA 98377

Written comments can be sent by facsimile to 360-497-1102.

Electronic comments should be in a common digital format and sent to: comments-pacificnorthwest-giffordpinchot-cowlitzvalley@usda.gov. To ensure that they are considered, hand-delivered comments must be received at the Cowlitz Valley Ranger Station during normal business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Additional information

For additional information on the project, please contact Team Leader Elizabeth Robinson at Elizabethh.robinson@usda.gov or by calling 360-497-1136.

Sincerely,



NIKIA HERNANDEZ
District Ranger